Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-96-117 *17 June 1996*

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Inter-American Affairs: C.A. Commission Condemns Blockade

PA1506123096 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2202 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] San Jose, 11 Jun (ACAN-EFE) — The Commission for the Defense of Human Rights in Central America (Codehuca) condemned the economic blockade of Cuba and accused the United States of violating the human rights of Cuban citizens with the Helms-Burton law.

Codehuca disclosed today a number of resolutions taken during a recent meeting of more than 100 Central American human rights organizations that evaluated the current state of human rights guarantees in the Central American region.

The humanitarian organization, with headquarters in San Jose, reiterated its "condemnation" of the economic blockade against Cuba, "which has been exacerbated by the implementation of the Helms-Burton law," according to Codehuca's declaration.

"The United States, notwithstanding its violation of the human rights of the Cuban people (with the Helms-Burton law) has the cynicism to present a resolution to the UN Human Rights Commission to appoint a special rapporteur for Cuba," the document states.

Codehuca also expressed concern for the possible reinitiation of exploratory talks "seeking a renegotiation for the permanence of U.S. military bases" in Panama, beyond the year 2000.

Codehuca coordinator Daniel Camacho said the humanitarian organizations are promoting a "self-esteem campaign" in Panama to erase the idea that Panamanians are not able to run the interoceanic Canal following the withdrawal of U.S. military forces on 31 December 1999.

Regarding Costa Rica, Codehuca demanded that the government "revoke" a decree that prohibits giving information on a million dollar arms-purchase deal with Israel by classifying it as a "state secret."

The decree "seriously threatens democracy, the antimilitaristic spirit of Costa Ricans, and the state of law," the humanitarian organization maintains.

Codehuca protested the "continuous violations of human rights" in Guatemala and "urgently" requested that President Alvaro Arzu adopt "specific and immediate actions" to show political willingness to comply with the Overall Agreement on Human Rights signed between the government and the guerrillas.

Codehuca supported the Guatemalan people's aspirations "of reorganizing and eventually abolishing the army" and initiatives promoted by the Mutual Support Group (GAM) to give "total support" to the victims of human rights violations.

Codehuca noted in its resolutions that the Honduran state "is hiding and protecting" several military officers who have been accused of being responsible for the disappearance of several persons and who are currently at large.

The humanitarian organization asked Honduran President Carlos Roberto Reina to "revoke" the appointment of former Armed Forces Chief General Luis Alonso Discua as Honduran alternate representative to the UN Security Council.

According to Codehuca, that appointment "is against international treaties and agreements for the defense of human rights."

Inter-American Affairs: Accord Between Mercosur, Chile

PY1506031096 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 Jun 96 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Santiago — Chile's admission into the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] will have to be decided during a meeting — which is viewed as crucial by Santiago government circles — among the foreign ministers of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Chile, slated to take place on 19 June in Buenos Aires.

"It will be a meeting that will try to overcome the obstacles that still separate Chile from its Mercosur partners," said a Chilean source. "The 19 June meeting is confirmed," said Chilean Foreign Minister Jose Miguel Insulza. In case it is successful, it will be decided during the meeting to establish 25 June as the day to sign the agreement by which Chile will join the economic bloc. The ceremony will take place in Buenos Aires.

Origin

In Montevideo yesterday, the negotiating teams of the five countries were attempting to overcome the main obstacle between Chile and the Mercosur members: The norms of origin, that is, the percentage of imported components that a product can have to benefit from lower custom tariffs to be applied among the South American countries.

In order to benefit from the free trade agreement, the Chilean negotiators had initially agreed with the general norm establishing that a product should be made of at least 60 percent national components (or with

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components from the four other partners). During the last round of technical negotiations, however, Argentine representatives wanted to modify this percentage and the Chilean negotiators are finding it difficult to accept the new "rules of the game."

Inter-American Affairs: Andean Parliament Rejects U.S. Law

PA1506040396 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 15 Jun 96

[From "The News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The member countries of the Andean Parliament have ended their seventh period of special sessions held in Caracas by unanimously rejecting the application of the Helms-Burton law. The signing of the agreement will not allow any foreign power to meddle in the sovereignty of Latin American countries and is an attempt to anticipate the application of pressures on Colombia because of President Ernesto Samper's case:

[Begin Senator Felipe Montilla, vice president of the Andean Parliament, recording] The assembly spoke out in favor of allowing countries to resolve their problems by resorting to their constitutional means stipulated in the laws of each country. In this case, Colombia was resorting to its constitutional means with the Samper problem. No country can interfere to condemn or rejoice over the decision that was made. A decision was simply adopted and must be respected. [end recording]

The Andean parliamentarians have said the signing of the protocol allowing for the application of control mechanisms in the case of stolen vehicles and planes is vital.

Inter-American Affairs: Proposal Against U.S. Law Approved

PA1606145896 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0221 GMT 16 Jun 96

[Report by Francisco Ramirez Cardenas]

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 15 Jun (NOTIMEX) — Today, legislators from over 15 Latin American and Caribbean countries approved a proposal that would "punish" U.S. companies if the Helms-Burton law, which toughens the economic embargo on Cuba, is applied.

"The important thing is to legislate, not only reject (the Helms-Burton law)," said Mexican Senator Mauricio Fernandez Garza on Saturday to NOTIMEX, while detailing a proposal of "antidote and mirror" laws against Washington's legislation.

The Mexican Congress recently agreed to coordinate with other Latin American congresses in order to take joint actions against the U.S. law.

The final declaration, received with enthusiasm by the Cuban Government, calls on the continent's nations to draw up laws that forbid the application of extraterritorial laws, such as the Helms-Burton law, and provisions to sanction to U.S. companies.

The "mirror law" would sanction U.S. companies established in Latin American countries for the same amount and punishment that the Helms-Burton law would sanction when applied to a company in the region.

The proposal provides that a country may request another country participating in the measure to punish the U.S. company.

On 12 March, the United States decreed the Helms-Burton law in an attempt to discourage foreign investments in Cuba through sanctions to companies and businessmen who do business using properties that were confiscated from U.S. citizens on the island.

Washington applied the Helms-Burton law in reprisal for the downing of two small U.S.-licensed airplanes by the Cuban Air Force.

Also approved at the final session was an agreement by the Latin American Parliament [Parlatino] rejecting the U.S. measure.

The Parlatino text supports the OAS resolution, approved in Panama by most Latin American nations, for the Inter-American Juridical Commission to rule on the validity of the U.S. legislation.

"It is a very beautiful example that Mexico's four political factions, regardless of our political differences, agree in the defense of our sovereignty and support to the Cuban people," Fernandez told NOTIMEX in an interview.

According to Fernandez, Latin American congresses should form a "club of friends" to legislate, "with a very clear stand on their rejection" of the Helms-Burton law, sanctions on U.S. firms whenever Washington punishes Latin American firms that have done business with Cuba.

The Mexican legislator believes that the antidote law that Latin American congresses should approve will lay down the principle that no country can apply its laws in another nation because this violates constitutional precepts.

Fernandez said that even when countries are not affected, "the arrogance of extraterritorial laws is everyone's concern."

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Thus, the adoption of mirror and antidote laws "lays down a precedent in case other crazy people emerge, such as (U.S. Legislators Jesse) Helms and (Dan) Burton, who sponsored the law," he added.

The meeting of Latin American and Caribbean legislators was sponsored by the Communist Party of Cuba, the island's single chamber parliament, and the Sao Paulo Forum, which groups together the continent's political parties.

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Cuba

Cuba: Castro Remarks on Role in Release of Juan Gaviria

PA1406224496 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Jun 96

[From the "National Newscast;" monitored from retransmission by Lima Sistema Unido de Retransmision Television at 1910 GMT on 14 June — passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer Maria Beatriz Echandia] Cuban President Fidel Castro today commented on his role in the negotiation to release Juan Carlos Gaviria. Castro said that he was moved by humanitarian reasons and that his country's mission with the kidnappers was simply to welcome them and offer them a place in which to live. Castro spoke on the program "Contacto Radio."

[Reporter Maria Paula Vernaza] Fidel Castro, who is in Turkey, told the "Contacto Radio" program today that he personally handled the case once he learned of a communique issued by the Movement for the Dignity of Colombia, which had threatened to murder Juan Carlos Gaviria once President Samper was absolved by the Chamber of Representatives:

[Castro] "The problem became urgent, and we had to work at a fast pace. Fortunately, this case did not involve drug traffickers and those kinds of people. I do not even know whether they are involved in guerrilla activities. I do not even know that. They had political motives."

[Vernaza] And that ideology behind the Movement for the Dignity of Colombia was the one that, according to Castro, moved him to accept the conditions of the movement requested in exchange for Gaviria's release; this is why he sent representatives to dialogue:

[Castro] "I am also certain our comrades would make no promises in this regard."

[Vernaza] The members of the movement were treated as political refugees in Havana:

[Castro] "We will welcome them, assist them, give them a place to live."

Cuba: Colombia's Guerra Calls Gaviria Aid Humanitarian

PA1706042096 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0102 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Havana, 15 Jun (PL) — Cuba's assistance in bringing an end to the kidnapping of Juan Carlos Gaviria was a totally humanitarian action, Colombian Congress President Julio Cesar Guerra Tulena has affirmed in Havana.

Talking to PRENSA LATINA during the meeting of Latin American and Caribbean lawmakers that ended on Saturday, the senator asserted that this was just a humanitarian action that today carries the Gaviria surname but could carry any other name tomorrow.

With Cuba's assistance, it was possible to obtain the release of the hostage, brother of former President Cesar Gaviria, before his captors killed him.

"Obviously it (the incident) has had an impact in the United States, Cuba, and Colombia considering what our former president represents as the OAS secretary general," Guerra Tulena explained.

Guerra Tulena, who is also the president of his country's senate, was thus referring to the accord whereby members of the organization that carried out the kidnapping flew to Cuba. [passage omitted]

Cuba: Castro Rules Out 'Possible Contact' With Clinton

PA1506174796 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0203 GMT 15 Jun 96

[Report by Susana Ugarte]

[FBIS Translated Text] Istanbul, 14 Jun (PL) — Fidel Castro's visit here has been described as tremendous. Today, he completed his second day in Turkey amid numerous congratulations for his defense of the people at the Habitat II Conference.

The Cuban president, the only one applauded before and after his speech, called for the continued struggle for man to have a decent home, decent job, food, health, and education, while denouncing unequal conditions that separate rich and poor people, both in and out of their countries.

Literally swarmed by attending delegates wanting to congratulate him at the end of his message to the UN conference on human settlements, the leader of the Caribbean nation had to leave in order to allow the meeting to continue.

The meeting concluded at 1800 (1500 GMT) and was celebrated by a multicolor shower of fireworks that converted nighttime downtown Istanbul into daylight.

Of the 18 speakers on this last day of Habitat II, which was inaugurated on 3 May, three other speakers also represented Latin America. They were Peruvian First Vice President Marques Flores, and the housing ministers from Uruguay and Chile, Juan Garabito Zoboli and Edmundo Hermosilla, respectively, who reaffirmed the

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subcontinent's only position on the demand for sustainable human settlements and fair social development.

Calls for housing as a universal right, for a lifetime of peace to work for the rights of the people, without exploitation or brutal economic blockades, were demands that greatly impacted the audience when listening to Fidel Castro, according to what PRENSA LATINA was able to record.

On Friday, the Cuban president toured historic sites in this city of 12 million inhabitants, which is Turkey's largest. His evening program included a visit to the Santa Sofia Museum, built in the fourth century by Emperor Constantine, which became a mosque a thousand years later.

He also went to the Blue Mosque, unique for its six minarets and 16 balconies.

In statements to Turkish television, Fidel Castro said that he attended this UN conference because he considered this his duty. Not to attend, he added, would be to underestimate its importance after previously attending the one in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, Copenhagen in 1994, and New York in 1995.

Fidel Castro ruled out a possible contact with U.S. President William Clinton to try to find a solution to the quarrel between Cuba and the United States.

Clinton, he said, inherited the policy of the blockade against Cuba and is under pressure and demands from extreme right groups of Cuban origin living in his country and a right-wing sector within the Republican Party.

Asked about possible changes in Russia toward a communist system, he said that "one has to see what one understands by communism" and then went on to say that there are no signs there of a society such as the one that existed in the former Soviet Union. Conditions are different and goals would be different, he said.

Fidel Castro stated that he never gives any thought to when he will relinquish his duties at the helm of Cuba because "I do not feel any obsession for power" and once the time to retire comes, he said he would like to write.

Cuba: Alarcon En Route to Canada, Urges ICAO Condemnation

PA1706040896 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1317 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 16 Jun (PL) — Ricardo Alarcon, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], has said that the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) must "reject, criticize, and condemn" the U.S. policy of tolerance of violations against his country.

Alarcon made that statement to PRENSA LATINA shortly before boarding the airplane that took him to Montreal, Canada, heading the Cuban delegation that will participate in a meeting of the ICAO Council.

The 33 Council members will discuss a report by its investigators on the 24 February downing of two U.S.-registered light aircraft that repeatedly violated Cuban airspace.

"We hope the ICAO Council will reach a just decision, the only one that can be reached if one goes by the facts," the ANPP president stated.

In his statements to PRENSA LATINA, the legislative leader stated "tolerance existed and exists for the activity in U.S. territory of groups that violate Cuban sovereignty."

"The ICAO is tasked with preserving and ensuring that civil aviation is conducted normally, and its chief objective is to avoid any danger that disrupts that normalcy," he noted.

Later on, he warned that "in view of the 24 February provocation, the most basic thing is to prevent further incidents."

"We are aware of the strength of the adversary (the United States), but we have a great strength, that is the truth of the facts and the proof that were submitted, which will not be easy to ignore," he affirmed.

Cuba: Castro Says Cuba Will Overcome Helms-Burton Law

LD1606162296 Madrid Teletexto TVE in Spanish 1606 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro said today that he cannot ask for anything from Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar and wishes him success in office "because he is going through a very tough period in Europe."

Castro, who had a 40-minute conversation with Canaries premier Manuel Hermoso, said that Cuba will overcome the Helms-Burton law as it has done in other issues and added that, in the same way that it took Spain 700 years to expel the Arabs, the Cubans will prevent action by the United States [as received].

Fidel Castro returned to Cuba this morning.

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Cuba: Robaina Interview With Cambio-16 on Helms-Burton Law

PA1406181496 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cuban Foreign Relations Minister Roberto Robaina said that with the extraterritoriality of the Helms-Burton law, the world is gaining first-hand experience of the interference and arrogance of the United States, similar to what Cuba has experienced for 37 years.

In comments to the Spanish magazine CAMBIO-16, Robaina said that there have been a number of reactions by different countries, and that the empire is beginning to realize that its power is also limited.

Roberto Robaina said that those who still refer to the anti-Cuban laws as an embargo, will now learn to use the correct terms, which are: Blockade, war, worldwide economic terrorism; and will understand that the United States is not pursuing changes or reforms in Cuba. Further in his comments to CAMBIO-16, Robaina emphasized that at the precise moment when the Helms-Burton law should be causing Cuba its greatest harm, the Cuban economy is taking-off. Robaina added that we not only defend our country through our resistance, but also with the recovery of sugar production. Robaina warned that Cuba will defend its revolution by making more profound the internal changes, much more than can be imagined, and by guaranteeing all its partners business success and confidence in the economic opening and adjustment process, which Cuba has initiated and is irreversible.

Cuba: U.S. Expected To OK Havana-Atlanta Flights for Games

PA1406172296 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Jun 96

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers, told Radio Havana Cuba that Cuba is confident that U.S. Government authorities will authorize the landing in Atlanta of two Cuban planes that will be providing transportation to the island's delegation that will participate in the 26th Summer Olympic Games.

Fernandez recently reported Washington's delay in granting this authorization less than two months from the inauguration of the games. We hope the U.S. authorities will authorize the direct flight of two Cuban planes between Havana and Atlanta. We are optimistic that understanding and good judgment will prevail, Fernandez said in an interview granted to this radio station. The U.S. people have always welcomed Cuban athletes. They have been cordial and have supported the good performance of our athletes, he said.

The U.S. Government authorized the direct transportation of Cuban athletes, who participated in the Pan-American Games in Indianapolis in 1987 as well as in Ponce, Puerto Rico for the Central American and Caribbean Games in 1993.

Cuba will participate in Atlanta with a delegation of approximately 180 athletes, who hope to maintain their fifth place ranking won in the Barcelona Olympic Games in 1992, but this time, with a greater number of gold medals.

Cuba: Group Condemns U.S. Law, Downing of Planes

PA1506190996 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1603 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 13 Jun (Notimex) — Today, the illegal but tolerated opposition group Democratic Socialist Current [CSD] condemned the Helms-Burton law, which strengthens economic sanctions that the United States has imposed on Cuba for more than three decades.

The Helms-Burton law "contradicts international law" and rules out the possibility of solving conflicts by means of "political reasoning and peaceful negotiation." Furthermore, "it transgresses the sovereign limits marked by the political borders of states," the group pointed out.

The CSD also rejected the downing of two lightplanes, belonging to the anti-Castro group "Brothers to the Rescue," by a Cuban fighter jet on 24 February. It also said that these government actions "confirm the violent nature of its political behavior."

The incident with the planes, which is being investigated by the International Civil Aviation Organization [ICAO], as petitioned by the UN Security Council, sparked the passing of the Helms-Burton law.

In a communique, the CSD reported that in a meeting, held from 31 May to 1 June, it elected Manuel Cuesta Morua as secretary general. Morua is a former worker at the Museum in Havana from which he was "removed because of his political stands and opinions."

This opposition meeting was, as far as it is known, the first of its kind since the government prohibited a meeting of Concilio Cubano, a front that unites dissident groups.

The opposition group regretted the fact that the February incident and the subsequent U.S. reaction with the

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law will undermine "any possible solution because of the intensification of the confrontation by both governments."

The CSD, which identifies itself with social democratic views, became known in Cuba in 1992 under the leadership of Vladimiro Roca, son of the late Blas Roca, a prominent communist leader.

The downing of the planes and the prohibition of Concilio Cubano show "the erratic persistency of the government to stop the inevitable democratic changes that are in the making" on the island, the group pointed out in a statement delivered to foreign journalists.

Cuba: Official Forecasts Agreements From UN Conference

PA1606170196 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2308 GMT 13 Jun 96

[By Susana Ugarte]

[FBIS Translated Text] Istanbul, 13 Jun (PL) — Today, Mario Cabello, president of Cuba's National Housing Institute, said that the course of the discussions on the documents at the UN Conference on Human Settlements forecasts the adoption of positive agreements.

Cabello, who headed the Cuban delegation until President Fidel Castro's arrival today, noted that both the Declaration of Principles and the Agenda Habitat Action Plan could lead to positive agreements to guide the world's future in this area.

According to the official program, the Cuban president will be one of the speakers to address the conference tomorrow. This summit marks the last top level UN meeting held in the 20th Century. [sentence as published]

Castro's speech has generated growing excitement in the halls of the Lutfu Kirdad Center, the conference's headquarters, and among the various media of this Eurasian nation, mainly the accredited local and foreign media, which are on the lookout for the Cuban visitors.

All eyes are also focused on the final drafting of the action plan.

According to Cabello, no one questions the right to a decent home as a fundamental issue, nor the issues related to possible solutions to such pressing problems, such as the millions of homeless people, poverty, pollution, and indiscriminate urbanization or social development.

UN data indicate that approximately 100 million people on this planet are homeless, while 600 million live in urban areas under conditions that threaten not only their health, but also their lives.

Official indicators show that in Latin America, for instance, 115 million people live under conditions of abject poverty, and 73 percent of the population live in urban areas with sharp contrasts in living conditions, ranging from abject poverty to opulence.

Cabello praised the outstanding performance of the Latin American and Caribbean delegations attending the conference, as they conveyed a united stance regarding these serious problems, to such an extent that they have done better than previous performances in world meetings.

He pointed out that his country brought to Istanbul its knowledge of relevant practices, such as the construction of low-cost housing, built using alternative techniques based on the domestic production of affordable materials and minimum energy consumption.

He pointed out that, since April 1992, more than 67,000 low-cost housing units have been built. This housing formula has enabled us to face the complex economic crisis that hit Cuba following the collapse of the socialist bloc, when, in the early 1990's, construction plans had to be cut by more than 50 percent compared to the second half of the previous decade.

In 1996, Cabello added, we have outlined a plan to build 50,000 housing units, which will be sponsored by the state and the cooperatives, and another 10,000 that will be backed by the citizens. These plans will beat all previous records achieved in this area.

The Habitat II Preparatory Committee chose low-cost housing among the 40 most important proposals to be discussed at the conference, and this topic heads the so-called good practices list, which will be presented by the Cuban delegation to the attendees.

The so-called community architect, as well as the use of bicycles as a pollution-free mode of transportation, are among other initiatives that Cuba will present.

During a visit to Havana in March, Wally N'dow, the conference's secretary general, commended the manner in which Cubans approach the topic of habitat, combining it with the concepts of sustainable human settlements and environmental protection.

The Habitat II Summit will conclude tomorrow in Istanbul, Turkey's second leading city, where 12 million people live and not all under the best conditions.

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Cuba: IACC Denounces Plans by U.S. Groups for Violations

PA1506185396 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1241 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 14 Jun (PL) — Today, the Cuban Civil Aeronautics Institute (IACC) denounced plans for new violations of Cuban airspace by U.S.-based groups that would use aircraft and pilots registered in that country.

Given its importance, PRENSA LATINA reproduces below the full text of the letter sent by the IACC president to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), stating the obligation that the ICAO has to act with determination and strength regarding the intentions announced in Miami.

The letter states:

Mr. Assad Koteite

President of the Council

International Civil Aviation Organization, ICAO

Mr. President:

On 11 June, in a news conference held in Miami, Florida, preparations were announced for a so-called flotilla that, starting from that point in U.S. territory, will try to enter Cuban airspace on 13 July.

In the same meeting, the organizers of this new provocation publicly reported that aircraft will also participate in this action. Once again, as the same group did in July of 1995, allegedly civilian aircraft, which are registered in the United States and manned by pilots with U.S. licenses, plan to take off from a U.S. airport to violate the territory and sovereignty of the Republic of Cuba. This has been reported by international news agencies like ANSA and REUTERS.

This represents a clear threat to once again abuse international civil aviation, in open violation of the Chicago Agreement and with the express premeditation shown by their announcement, one month ahead of their planned trip.

It would be regrettable that, in view of the lack of strong and timely actions against the preceding violations and the culpable tolerance of U.S. authorities, the agitators feel encouraged — as their recent announcement suggests — to stage new incidents.

In light of this situation, ICAO has the obligation to act with determination and strength.

I request that you distribute this letter to all Council members as an official document.

Truly Yours,

Division General

[signed] Rogelio Acevedo Gonzalez

IACC President

Cuba: Colombian Official Lashes Out Against U.S. Policy

PA1606121396 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2141 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 15 Jun (PL) — Colombian Congress President Julio Cesar Guerra Tulena criticized here today the recent measures announced by the U.S. Government against his country, and accused the United States of influencing the political crisis that has erupted in Bogota in recent months.

In a conversation with the local press during the meeting of Latin American and Caribbean parliamentarians, which is being held in this capital, the senator affirmed that the United States is taking advantage of the polarization of political forces in Colombia and is "dropping its little bombs to disrupt the president's posttrial process."

After the Colombian Chamber of Representatives on 13 June acquitted President Ernesto Samper of charges of allegedly using drug money in his electoral campaign, U.S. State Department offficials made unfortunate remarks, according to the deputy.

"It would be illogical to think that we need the certification of the U.S. Government to solve our internal problems," he said, adding that the international meddling was aimed at disrupting congressional deliberations on the case.

Guerra Tulena termed Washington's decertification of Colombian on the drug struggle and the announced suspension of visas to high-ranking Bogota officials, as well as the possible adoption of economic measures, a show of arrogance.

Obviously, he commented, all this is related to the domestic crisis of the country and the case Samper faced. He added that Samper will remain in office until the last hour and the last minute of 7 August 1998, when his presidential term expires.

According to the Senate president, the U.S. Administration must not employ any sanction as a big stick to harm the Colombian Government and Ernesto Samper.

From the viewpoint of international politics, he stated, I believe this is immoral.

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Guerra Tulena warned that this situation will soon be reported before the Latin American and Andean parliaments, so that the White House knows that Colombia is not ready to put up with the arrogance of a country that believes it is the world's policeman.

He considered Washington's foreign policy absurd, because it attacks a traditional friend like the Colombian nation. That myopia, he said, earns the United States antipathy and hatred from a large part of the planet.

He referred to the rejection of different organizations and entities, like the Nonaligned Movement and the European Union, to the extreme position of authorities from the United States, which he called the largest drug-consuming country in the world.

The senator revealed that Colombia has earmarked $1 billion for the drug fight, an amount that could otherwise be spent on improving health prevention and education.

That is why, he added, we are annoyed by the fact that we are not considered a country that cooperates in the drug fight, and by the fact that the U.S. Government calls us a narcodemocracy and may vote against us at the World Bank, the IMF, and even the Inter-American Development Bank.

Guerra Tulena concluded that a few days ago, he sent a personal letter to the U.S. House of Representatives, in which he requested respect for the sovereignty of Colombia and reminded that U.S. legislative body about the importance of the people's right to self-determination.

Cuba: Region's Lawmakers Meet, Reject Helms-Burton Law

PA1706043096 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Jun 96

[Report by Barbara Betancourt; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The willingness to defend and strengthen the national independence of each one of our nations and the commitment to continue building a common fatherland were the two main concepts that marked the meeting of lawmakers for the sovereignty and integration of Latin America and the Caribbean, which was held until Saturday in Havana. Sponsored by the Sao Paulo Forum, the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], and the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], the final declaration adopted at the meeting advocated the functioning of truly representative assemblies and the establishment of opportunities that guarantee the unity of the community of nations of our America.

The document also urged that economic policies that are viable and different from the neo-liberal model be drafted.

[Begin ANPP President Ricardo Alarcon recording] With special emphasis, the legislators condemned the Helms-Burton law, which violates the principles of international law and whose extraterritorial nature hurts the interests and sovereignty of all states. We voice our solidarity with the brother people of Cuba and reaffirm our support for its right to defend its own path as a free and independent Cuba.

Within this context, we acknowledged the importance of the recent agreements the Latin American and Caribbean governments reached during the 26th OAS General Assembly. Based on that decision, we pledge as lawmakers to promote legislative initiatives that preserve the right of each nation to free commerce. As examples of the most recent developments in their countries, the participating lawmakers denounced and rejected the systematic meddling that is still exercised against their countries and demanded support and respect for the sovereign decisions of their institutions, as is the case in Colombia. [end recording]

After reading the final declaration, Alarcon concluded the event with a brief speech in which he harshly criticized the U.S. Government for its evident meddling, which has been rejected by Latin America and the world in general, and advised U.S. lawmakers as follows:

[Begin Alarcon recording] There are many things they could do, but the first one is to acknowledge their obligation to the U.S. people and enact laws for the U.S. people that seek their well-being, to improve their living conditions, and to solve their problems. They should stop legislating for the world. They should stop arbitrarily taking upon themselves functions nobody has entrusted upon them — Latin Americans, at least, will never entrust them upon them. For those who are deaf and blind, there is nothing clearer or more lucid than the message that the OAS General Assembly sent them very recently. [end recording]

The final session also approved the proposal submitted by Mexican legislator Mauricio Fernandez de la Barca of the National Action Party to the lawmakers to express in practice their rejection of the Helms-Burton law by enacting local antidote laws and mirror legislation [legislaciones espejo]. They also agreed to sign the accords on this matter that the recently concluded meeting of the Board of Directors of the Latin American Parliament approved.

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Cuba: Castro Meets With Turkish Head of State Demirel

PA1406223796 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2148 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Istanbul, 13 Jun (PL) — Cuban President Fidel Castro met with the Turkish head of state, Suleyman Demirel, a few hours after arriving in this country today to attend the UN Habitat II Summit.

Shortly before meeting with the Turkish president, the Cuban statesman was visited by Turkish acting Prime Minister Necmen Erkaban at the Swedish Hotel where he is staying.

The Turkish radio and television stations amply covered the Cuban president's meetings with Demirel and Erkaban. Their newscasts also gave broad coverage to the reception offered by the government of this European country to the personalities attending the UN summit.

Habitat II will close its doors tomorrow. It has been announced that President Fidel Castro will give a speech tomorrow before the summit closes. He is the only Latin American president attending the meeting, the last UN summit in the current century.

The delegates to this important world meeting are finalizing the declaration, which must be approved in a few hours. The document insists that the right to housing be recognized as a fundamental, human right.

Cuba: Fidel Castro Addresses Istanbul Conference

PA1506171496 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Jun 96

[Speech by Cuban President Fidel Castro at the UN Habitat Two Conference in Istanbul, Turkey; date not given; from the "National Radio News" newscast — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. President and distinguished conference participants. Our problems are not the prestigious philosophers who lived in these regions. In contrast to the hundreds of thousands of years it took human species to reach only [words indistinct] million inhabitants, human species grew six times during this century. In five or six years we will surpass the 6 billion mark. This colossal demographic explosion has not taken place in a fair world but was preceded by centuries of colonialism, slavery, and economic exploitation. [Words indistinct] and others had nothing. The blood and sweat of those exploited served to create what today is called a consumer society, which is an insult to the four-fifths of the population who are the hungry and poor.

Medicine was able to save lives; politics and economy were not able to feed anyone or offer a decent livelihood. Those who have practically destroyed the planet and poisoned the air, the seas, and the land, are today the ones who are the least interested in saving humankind. How many developed countries' heads of state or government are attending this meeting today? Disillusionment is rampant in Third World countries; they are losing faith. Such vital problems discussed by the United Nations, such as the environment and social development, received other, but formal, responses.

Domestic and foreign migratory movements have their origin in this same unequal and unfair development, both inside and outside countries. How can we understand this? Nothing to do with human settlements and their possible solutions can be understood.

Today, much is said about global economy and technological advances. What good does all this do to solve man's problems if rich countries become richer and richer while poor countries become poorer and poorer? What resources will we have to give education, health, food, housing, and employment, not only to those now living in the world, but to the approximately 100 million new human beings every year? If developed capitalist countries themselves suffer from increasing unemployment, even with the industrial reconversion and technological revolution, what is left for us, the world's forgotten?

At this conference of human settlements we spoke basically of the cities. But we cannot forget the rural areas where food should be produced and where we have allowed the creation of settlements that are unfit for man, which have become more and more abandoned every day.

The unfair trade that takes place between the countryside and the cities is similar to the unfair trade that goes on between poor and rich countries. Desperate people from the countryside emigrate to the cities to live in slums, in depressing neighborhoods.

In Latin America, in just a bit over two decades, 85 percent of the population will live in overcrowded cities.

How are the people of Latin American and the Caribbean going to resolve the terrible problems that this alarming perspective represents? Where will we find the water fountains we need? How will we be able to guarantee the necessary food? What jobs can we offer to hundreds of millions of people? What kind of education will we be able to offer to these legions of human beings? What will be the standard of living of the vast masses? What [words indistinct] can we guarantee them?

How can we stop an irreversible deterioration of the environment? How can we control in huge cities the

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wild increase of crime, of drugs, the exploitation of children, and the moral collapse of society?

For how long will poverty, lack of health, death, hunger, and exploitation be allowed to exist in the big cities? Don't governments care about this? Does the state want to think it has no responsibility in the finding of a solution to these problems? Is it fair to think that housing is not an essential right of humankind?

Cuba joins those representatives of government and nongovernment institutions, who, in this conference, have defended the most correct positions and have expressed the most evident truth. It cannot be said that there are not enough funds. How could that be so, knowing that after the end of the so-called cold war, trillions are being spent on weapons and military activities, and that the industry of weapons has grown? How can these lies be told to humankind?

We must vigorously proclaim that we have the right to breath pure air, to drink uncontaminated water, to have a decent job, to eat healthy food, to receive an education, to receive medical attention, and to be less poor when others are becoming increasingly reach.

We must proclaim that we are not people who live in jungles because there are not even jungles any more.

It is fair that all families should have a decent domicile and that this be considered a universal right of man.

We have the right to live in peace and with honor, the right to be allowed to work for our people. Unjust and criminal economic blockades must not be condoned. We must not be exploited, looted, disdained, or treated with sickening xenophobia.

We will continue meeting, we will continue struggling, we will continue telling the world our truth. After all, we are the world and the world cannot have a master and does not stand for suicidal policies, and it cannot accept that an egotistical, crazy, and irresponsible minority lead us to extermination.

Thank you.

Cuba: Fidel Castro Makes Stopover on Spanish Island

PA1506193196 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1856 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Granadilla (Spain), 15 Jun (EFE) — This afternoon, Cuban President Fidel Castro arrived on the Spanish island of Tenerife. He will stay here for several hours during a technical stopover on his way back to his country from Turkey.

Fidel Castro arrived at the Queen Sophia Airport, on the southern part of the island, where he was welcomed by Manuel Hermoso, president of the Government of the Canary Islands, and by Heliodoro Rodriguez, civilian governor of Santa Cruz de Tenerife.

Fidel Castro, who will stay in a hotel on the southern part of the island, is on his way back to his country after attending the Second UN Human Settlements Conference (Habitat II) in Istanbul, which included 171 countries.

Cuba: Castro Arrives in Canary Islands, Comments on Issues

PA1606134796 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cubavision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Jun 96

[From the "NTV" Newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, Cuban President Fidel Castro arrived in the Canary Islands for a technical stopover. In statements to the press, Castro stated that the negotiations between Cuba and the European Union [EU] are progressing well. He reiterated the willingness of the Cuban Government to reach a cooperation agreement with the EU.

When questioned on the Helms-Burton law, aimed at strengthening the U.S. blockade against Cuba, he said that he is confident they will overcome this law.

When answering a question from a Spanish reporter during an unscheduled news conference on what he will ask from Aznar after announcing the end of the Spanish Government's cooperation with Cuba, Castro said he would not ask anything from him. He would only wish him well in his administration, in the face of the difficult task that lies ahead of him.

Speaking to reporters from all Spanish media sources, the Cuban leader commented on the difficult task Aznar has ahead of him, like every head of state from the old continent has, given the demands posed by the European unification.

Castro made a special reference to the difficulties and multiple protests European leaders are facing over the so-called adjustment measures they are implementing to achieve the EU objectives.

In his statements to the press in Tenerife, Castro also expressed, in response to reporters' questions, the importance he places on the World Summit on Human Settlements that recently concluded in Istanbul, Turkey, from where he traveled to the Canary Islands. He alluded to the existing contradictions, such as the killing of cattle over the mad cow disease, while a large part of humankind faces starvation and difficult survival problems.

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Castro and his party arrived in Tenerife Island, one of the two largest islands of the Canary Islands Archipelago, at 2000 local time. They were received at the Reina Sofia Airport by Manuel Hermoso Rojas, president of the Canary Islands Autonomous Community.

The Cuban president, who is staying at the great Hotel Del Duque, the most typical hotel of Canary culture, expressed that he is very satisfied to be there, and he highlighted the sensibility of the residents of the Canary Islands.

In spite of the fact that this is a technical stopover, both local authorities and the press gave wide coverage to Castro's visit, and he appeared satisfied with his talks with his hosts and the reporters.

Cuba: Fidel Castro Returns From Istanbul, Canary Islands

PA1706045496 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0253 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 16 Jun (PL) — Cuban President Fidel Castro today returned to Havana after participating in the Second UN Summit on Human Settlements held in Istanbul, Turkey, where Latin America played an important role.

Following the "Habitat II" Conference, which met from 3 May to 14 June with the participation of world leaders the last two days, the Cuban president made a technical 24-hour stopover in Tenerife, Canary Islands, where he was received by Manuel Hermoso Rojas, president of that Spanish autonomous community, and other authorities.

In an improvised news conference held last Saturday, Fidel Castro discussed important issues at the aforementioned meeting and other international issues with Spanish reporters and special national correspondents.

The right to housing, poverty, and other scourges that threaten the survival of humankind were the main topics that Latin American countries touched on in a document that states the joint position of the subcontinent with regard to the main socioeconomic world problems.

The Cuban leader also concluded a brief program during his stay in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, organized by the Canary Islands Government. He concluded his visit this Sunday with a visit to the southern part of the island and Teide Volcano, wilth an elevation of more than 3,000 meters.

Fidel Castro and his hosts expressed, on different occasions, the reciprocal satisfaction for the visit, as well as the historical ties and feelings of brotherhood that join both peoples, a fact confirmed by the warm welcome accorded by the local population.

Cuba: Politburo Members' Activities Through 13 Jun

PA1406172096

[FBIS Report] The following is a compilation of reports on the activities of Cuban Communist Party Central Committee Politburo members monitored through 13 June.

Sugar Industry Minister Nelson Torres has announced that with the close to 20 mills that are still grinding in the country, the foreseen goal of 4.5 million tons of sugar for this harvest is about to be achieved. (Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Jun 96)

Referring to a complaint Revolutionary Armed Forces Minister Raul Castro made during a recent visit to the Isle of Youth Municipality, that cattle on the loose were destroying crops, Agriculture Minister Alfredo Jordan stated on 4 June that cattle are no longer ruining the citrus plantations. He added that he visits the area every 15 days and has made sure the correct measures are being implemented to prevent this. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 5 Jun 96)

Politburo Members Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and Yadira Garcia, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) in Matanzas presided over the ceremonies held in this province to mark the 35th anniversary of the Interior Ministry (Minint). During a ceremony in honor of the Minint fighters, Alfredo Hondal, first PCC secretary in Ciego de Avila, said that the war on crime is yielding positive results and urged police to continue with this important task. He also praised the work Minint personnel carried out in the current sugar harvest. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 6 Jun 96)

As result of the past months' rains, millions of arrobas of sugarcane were lost nationwide due to poor drainage in the fields. Sugar Industry Minister Torres held a meeting in Villa Clara Province with the persons mainly responsible for this work to discuss drainage activities in the country's sugar fields. (Havana Tele Rebelde and Cubavision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Jun 96)

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Haiti

Haiti: International Donors Finance 40 Percent of Budget

PA1506014296 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in Creole 1130 GMT 13 Jun 96

[From the "0730 Appointment" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Haiti's governmental delegation that has gone to Washington to meet with the economic donors met with success in Washington on 12 June. The international donors accepted the Haitian Government's economic program after a meeting held yesterday with Finance Minister Fred Joseph and members of the Haitian delegation. They agreed to finance 40 percent of the budget of the Republic for fiscal year 1995-1996. The donors will earmark $118 million to the Haitian Government this year and say it is possible [words indistinct] to support the budget of the next fiscal year. The IMF representatives agree to support 50 percent of Haiti's economic reforms. [passage omitted]

At the meeting in Washington yesterday afternoon, the Haitian economy minister gave a three-hour presentation on the economic reforms being made in Haiti. Joseph outlined the policy the Haitian Government will follow within the structural adjustment program to reinforce the commitment taken by the head of the executive to respect the agreement he had with the international, financial institutions.

Before the presentation made yesterday, the Haitian economy and finance minister met with the U.S. deputy secretary of the Treasury and the representative of the World Bank. After this meeting, Joseph confirmed Haiti has already had the necessary support for the implementation of the national budget; thus, after discussions with certain international sponsors, the minister announced that the budget is financed. [passage omitted]

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Mexico: UK Aids 'Antidote Legislation' To Counter U.S. Law

PA1606124996 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 13 Jun 96 p 25

[FBIS Translated Text] British Ambassador to Mexico Adrian Beamish has warned that the international community must avoid a confrontation with the United States but, at the same time, maintain pressure against an extraterritorial implementation of the Helms-Burton law. Beamish revealed that British officials are advising the Mexicans on an antidote legislation against the U.S. law.

Meanwhile, the National Foreign Trade Bank of Mexico has announced the establishment of an orientation and information office for Mexican businessmen interested in knowing about the 1996 Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act.

The institution has reported that the office will give information and basic orientation on matters directly related to the controversial U.S. law. The office will serve large enterprises — which surely will face severe commercial sanctions — and small and medium enterprises that are indirectly linked to the Cuban market.

The British diplomat noted the need to maintain a common front against the U.S. decision to implement the extraterritorial law.

He said that his government is holding talks with Mexico to take joint action in this regard.

Beamish also said that "it is too early to say that Mexico's economy policy has failed." In his opinion the project is good, but what "is arguable" is the steps that should be taken in each sector.

The ambassador said that "the secret" for success is "to govern while knowing how to mix economic and political goals in a way that the voters accept plans."

He recommended a review of the Mexican economic program's main measures and the establishment of an equilibrium between those who want total liberalism and those who want a state economy.

Interviewed at the conclusion of the 45th Polanco Rotary Club, Ambassador Beamish recalled that Great Britain has jurisdictional powers that permit the protection of its businessmen through legal means.

He said that within the framework of talks between the British Government and Mexican authorities regarding the Helms-Burton law, the British are providing advice for the drafting of a similar antidote law.

Regarding another issue, Beamish estimated that the problems between the European Union and Great Britain will be resolved soon and that, before the end of the year, negotiations will be initiated with Mexico to reach an economic and political cooperation agreement.

On this issue, he emphasized that the British veto against the European Union initiating talks with the Mexican Government to reach an agreement "is an internal matter that it is up to the government members of the European Union to resolve, and Mexico understands this," he noted.

The British ambassador said that this is "by no means" a measure against Mexico and, in addition, does not represent a point of conflict between Mexico and Great Britain.

Mexico: U.S. 'Ploys' To Keep Mexican Products Out Rejected

PA1606034296 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0054 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico City, 12 Jun (NOTIMEX) — The Standing Committee of the Congress today rejected the protectionist ploys promoted by U.S. farmers against Mexican vegetable exports such as tomatoes and peppers.

It also asked the Commerce and Industrial Development, Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, and Foreign Secretariats to file the appeals and take the actions foreseen in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to prevent the unfair and unilateral measures that hurt the country's farmers. In a pronouncement introduced by the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) and approved unanimously, the Committee recommended that the Commerce and Agriculture Committees of the two chambers of Congress ask Mexican authorities to take the appropriate actions and report on the results.

The statement established that "we are the victims of unilateral actions by U.S. officials who do not respect the rules established in NAFTA."

At the podium, PRD Deputy Juan Guerra said that the country is experiencing commercial problems with the United States that "can gravely hurt our vegetable exports, particularly tomatoes and peppers."

He stressed that the United States seeks to protect at any cost some production sectors owing to the current electoral climate in that country.

Institutional Revolutionary Party Legislator Martina Montenegro said "we are the victims of unilateral actions by U.S. authorities who do not respect the NAFTA accords."

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Now they are using "plant and animal health ploys to protect themselves in view of the quality of the Mexican tomato. Our tuna, shrimp, and avocado exports were victims, and now the tomato exports which are competitive at a good price, are being threatened," she stressed.

She reported that Baja California's tomato farmers in the country's north produce 243,000 tons of tomatoes and earnings of 369 million pesos ($49.2 million). She added that this crop provides 15,000 permanent and 49,000 temporary jobs.

Mexico: Military Officials To Head Security Secretariat

PA1606131996 Mexico City REFORMA in Spanish 14 Jun 96 p 1

[Report by Alfredo Joyner — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] Five lieutenant colonels and five colonels, who will replace civilians and police officers, will begin their new jobs today.

The Public Security Secretariat (SSP) will be headed by 11 generals, one division general and 10 brigade generals. These generals already head the most important posts and directorates of this organization.

The remaining general directorates and area directorates will be headed by five lieutenant colonels and five colonels, who will be sworn in today.

The 21 officials who were removed, including career service police and civilians, will be "available for assignment," meaning, even though they will be included on the payroll, they will not have a specific duty. The exceptions to this arrangement will be Rafael Avilez and Dario Chacon, who have resigned from heading the Operational Control Directorate and the General Directorate of Groups, respectively.

Throughout this week, the departing authorities held meetings with General Enrique Salgado, head of the SSP.

After visiting the SSP offices, Pedro Luna Castro, former director of Region 2, and David Leon Mendez, who headed the Banking and Industrial Police, refused to comment on the instructions they received from Salgado.

Within the new scheme of the SSP, and in keeping with Salgado's work program, the Executive Directorate of Public Security Programs, the Operational Communications Deputy Directorate and the Operational Logistics Directorate were established as new areas of operation.

The following changes are expected to occur in several of the 50 sector chief positions, in which military officers will be also assigned to replace career service policemen.

High-ranking Military Officers

The strategic positions of the SSP are held by 21 military officers and two civilians, most of whom have been assigned to replace police officers:

Div. Gen. Enrique Salgado has been appointed SSP secretary, replacing David Garay, a civilian.

Div. Gen. Salgado will be responsible for the SSP, which is responsible for providing security to Mexico City residents via a sufficient police deployment, operational actions and joint action programs with other organizations.

Brigade Gen. Felipe Bonilla Espinobarros has been appointed Operational Control General Director, replacing Rafael Avilez, a police officer.

Brig. Gen. Bonilla will be responsible for planning police operations based on crime rates, types of crimes, and characteristics of the population or particular event. These operations might be permanent, periodic, or special on holidays or for special events.

Brig. Gen. Mauro Enrique Tello Quinones will take office as General Director of Groups, replacing Dario Chacon Montejo, a police officer.

Brig. Gen. Tello will be responsible for coordinating the metropolitan groups, which, as the specialized groups they are, will implement specific tasks such as discouraging demonstrators and coordinating traffic. The directors of granadiers, "zorros," policewomen, the mounted police and the motorcycle patrolmen will be under his jurisdiction.

Brig. Gen. Javier del Real Magallanes will take office as Executive Director of Public Security Policies.

This is a new operational position and will work jointly with the Operational Control Director in adopting decisions that will deal with future police operations.

Lt. Col. Carlos Biviano Villa Castillo, an electrical communications engineer, will take office as Operational Communications Deputy Director.

This is a new operational position and Villa Castillo will be in charge of determining the radio frequencies used by the different police groups that constitute the SSP.

Other Changes

Brig. Gen. Victor Arturo Jurado Gonzalez will be director of Region 1 (north and center).

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Brig. Gen. Alberto Espinosa Ramirez will be director of Region 2 (southwest).

Brig. Gen. Alberto Trejo Garcia will be director of Region 3 (southeast).

Infantry Lt. Col. Arturo Velasquez Bravo will be director of Preventive Actions.

Infantry Lt. Col. Edmundo Adolfo Jimenez Galan will be director of Operational Logistics.

Brig. Gen. Valentin Roman Lopez will be director of the Banking Police.

Brig. General Jorge Juarez Loera will be director of Mexico City's Auxiliary Police.

Brig. Gen. Enrique Estrada Gonzalez will be director of the Eastern Granadiers.

Infantry Col. Bernardo Pineda Solis will be director of the Western Granadiers.

Infantry Col. Jose Lamberto Ponce Lara will be director of the Task Force (zorros).

Cavalry Col. Adolfo Dominguez Martinez will be director of the Mounted Patrols.

Cavalry Lt. Col. Roberto Dawe Gonzalez will be director of the Special Unit.

Lt. Col. Maria del Carmen Robles Dominguez, nurse corps, will be director of the Women's Group.

Cavalry Col. Jesus Alonso Valdes will be director of Motorcycle Patrolmen.

Brig. Gen. Benito Romero Orozco will be director of Support Services.

Col. Ricardo Perez Garcia will be Private Secretary.

Eduardo Garcia Jaen, a civilian, will be director of Social Communications.

Enrique Gutierrez San Miguel, a civilian, will be deputy director of Information.

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El Salvador

El Salvador: Calderon Sol Ends Peru Visit, Signs Agreements

PA1606170596 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 15 Jun 96 p 4-A

[Report by editorial staff]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, Salvadoran President Armando Calderon Sol ended his official three-day visit to Peru. During his visit, Calderon Sol signed important agreements with his Peruvian counterpart Alberto Fujimori in the areas of economic cooperation, customs assistance, legal assistance, mutual protection of investments, elimination of visas, and scientific and technical cooperation.

Calderon Sol arrived in this Andean country on Wednesday evening. During his visit to Peru, he had a very busy work schedule, which yesterday came to an end with the inauguration of public investment works in the city of Cajamarca near the Ecuadoran border.

The Salvadoran president and his delegation departed very early this morning from Lima's "Jorge Chavez" International Airport, where Calderon Sol was given a farewell with presidential honors.

Salvadoran Foreign Relations Minister Ramon Gonzalez Giner and Alfredo Mena Lagos, presidential state modernization commissioner, who has the rank of state minister, along with other cabinet members accompanied Calderon Sol during his visit.

The day before the visit concluded, Gonzalez Giner signed six important agreements with his Peruvian counterpart Francisco Tudela. In addition, the visitors benefited from observing the development of the modernization and privatization process that the Fujimori administration is promoting.

Spokesmen from the Presidency's Information Secretariat disclosed that these agreements seek to strengthen cooperation and bilateral ties between El Salvador and Peru.

The Agreements That Were Signed

The agreement for the promotion and protection of investments intends to emphasize, create, and maintain favorable conditions in El Salvador and Peru so as to promote investments, which will be duly protected.

The agreement for scientific and technical cooperation seeks to incorporate new areas in order to include aspects of production and social and cultural advancement. This agreement replaces the previous one that both countries had signed in 1977.

This agreement also provides for the creation of an international studies school in El Salvador with the support of Peru's diplomatic academy. This school will be used to better train diplomats from this Central American country.

Another agreement has to do with the judicial and penal area and it provides for cooperation and mutual assistance in the development of judicial procedures.

Moreover, it provides for the practice and execution of evidence and notifications, the exchange of documents, the execution of expert reports, and the delivery of rulings and identification of individuals between both countries.

The elimination of visas attempts to attract a larger number of tourists from both countries so that they may travel with fewer restrictions.

Salvadoran Foreign Relations Minister Gonzalez Giner and Peruvian Foreign Relations Minister Tudela signed these agreements the day before Calderon Sol concluded his visit.

El Salvador: FMLN Note Praises OAS Ruling on Helms-Burton Law

PA1606035796 San Salvador CO LATINO in Spanish 12 Jun 96 p 17

[Communique issued by the FMLN Political Commission in San Salvador on 10 June]

[FBIS Translated Text]**OAS' REJECTION OF THE HELMS-BURTON LAW**

The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] greets and supports the decision by the 26th General Assembly of the OAS, which met in Panama City, to reject the Helms-Burton law, which was recently approved by the U.S. Congress.

The OAS decision, supported by most countries on the American continent, represents a clear opposition to the interventionist policy of the U.S. Government with regard to the relations third countries seek to establish with Cuba. The OAS reminded the United States about the obligation of every member state to respect the rights other states enjoy, in accordance with international law.

It is important to note that this OAS position was adopted at a time when the EU has expressed its firm rejection of the implications of the Helms-Burton law, which constitutes an open intervention in its sovereignty and a violation of the international norms governing trade.

We also consider it positive that President Calderon Sol himself recognized the extraterritoriality of said repudiated legislation. El Salvador has set a precedent in the defense of the principle of nonintervention in the affairs of other states. Prominent Salvadoran jurist Dr. Jose Gustavo Guerrero was an unyielding advocate of

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this principle at the Panamerican Conference held in Havana in 1928, when at the same time Augusto Cesar Sandino heroically resisted the invasion of U.S. troops in Nicaragua. Dr. Guerrero defended this principle despite the pressure from U.S. diplomacy.

We hope that the wise OAS resolution will make the U.S. Government reflect on ending its policy of hostility and blockade against Cuba. The OAS decision strengthens our confidence that the peoples of America can defend their rights with courage against any interventionist policy.

FMLN POLITICAL COMMISSION

San Salvador, 10 June 1996.

Guatemala

Guatemala: Foreign Minister on Legal Value of U.S. Documents

PA1506163896 Guatemala City Televisiete Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 12 Jun 96

[From the "Channel Seven News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Relations Minister Eduardo Stein disclosed today that the U.S. Government will send new declassified documentation covering human rights violations in Guatemala, but admitted that the information must continue through legal channels and that it lacks sufficient legal validity as evidence.

[Begin Stein recording in progress] ..that began in the United States based on a text written in English; a sworn translation with legal validity in Guatemala. Second, the identification of this text will be a continuing process because there is news from the United States that there is additional documentation that awaits clearance for public use. Third, I feel that because the information contained in the documentation that has already been cleared for public use is not from a primary source — in other words, they are not depositions by potential trial witnesses — I very much doubt that most of these texts will have any value as evidence. They are instead, as far as we know, mostly second-hand reports or reports by officials regarding statements or situations that took place in Guatemala. Therefore, I believe that this documentation will, instead, serve to guide interested parties to investigate, from other sources, possible evidence and documentation for trials. [end recording]

Panama

Panama: Minister on U.S. Envoy's Visit, U.S. Base Permanence

PA1406145096 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 14 Jun 96 p 66

[FBIS Translated Text] In commenting on the visit U.S. Ambassador William Hughes made to his office yesterday afternoon, Foreign Relations Minister Ricardo Alberto Arias Arias has said that the United States told Panama that the Clinton administration has absolutely nothing to do with the recent publications in the U.S. media, according to which, the relations between the two countries had reportedly deteriorated because of the Banaico [Agro-Industrial and Commercial Bank of Panama, Inc.] case.

Foreign Minister Arias added that the U.S. diplomat officially made public statements from both the State Department in Washington and the U.S. Embassy in Panama. According to these statements, people are pleased, because the existing close ties between the United States and Panama to fight drug trafficking and money laundering continue.

On another subject, Minister Arias announced that the United Nations will soon sponsor a special forum to address and deliberate all the opinions of the various sectors of Panamanian society on the advisability of a U.S. military presence after 31 December 1999, as stipulated by the Panama Canal treaties.

Arias made this announcement when he was questioned on the visit he will make next week to the United States to allegedly participate in exploratory talks on the issue. "It is true that I will go to Washington, but only because I am the current Panamanian ambassador to the United States and have major issues to attend there. This trip has nothing to do with exploratory talks or the military bases," the Panamanian minister affirmed.

Panama: Ortega Disagrees on Continued Military Presence

PA1406171496 Panama City EL UNIVERSAL DE PANAMA in Spanish 14 Jun 96 p40

[Report by Victor Dagoberto Torres]

[FBIS Translated Text] Oyden Ortega, president of the Foreign Relations Commission of the Legislative Assembly, said that the Panamanian Government should not renegotiate any sort of continued presence of U.S. military bases beyond the year 2000.

Ortega said that the United States has to adhere to what was agreed in the 1977 Torrijos Carter treaties, which provides that only the Republic of Panama shall administer the Canal after 31 December 1999.

The Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) legislator said that other colleagues and fellow party members have already taken a stand on the possible renegotiation of U.S. military bases.

The former foreign minister said that he is not aware of the position upheld by the PRD's top leadership because he is not a director within the ruling party.

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Nevertheless, the legislator gave assurances that there is no division within the PRD over the position that certain members may have in connection with the withdrawal of the military bases that the United States keeps on the banks of the interoceanic canal.

The Legislative Assembly's plenary meeting summoned Acting Foreign Minister Ricardo Alberto Arias this past Monday, to respond to a four-point questionnaire on the permanence of about 4,000 U.S. soldiers after the year 2000.

Ortega added that the Legislative Assembly's plenum agreed to summon Foreign Minister Arias to respond to specific questions following statements that had been made on the continuation of military bases.

He said that the foreign minister was also called to discuss the informal conversations that the government is holding with Bill Clinton's administration officials.

The foreign relations minister will report to the Legislative Assembly's Budget Commission room on Wednesday.

Panama: Editorial Calls For 'Convincing Explanations'

PA1406154196 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 Jun 96 p a1

["As of Today" editorial column]

[FBIS Translated Text] Instead of veiled and open threats to the media by high-level officials of this government; instead of the accusations that Panamanians and unnamed, but obviously powerful information organizations planted in very prestigious foreign magazines and newspapers (THE NEW YORK TIMES is considered the world's most important newspaper), they [the high-level officials] should face the facts that stubbornly persist. They should instead offer convincing explanations.

Balladares himself recognized LA PRENSA's excellent investigative reporting into the Banaico case. We should add that this forced the Attorney General's Office to investigate the huge swindle, but it is not true what the president says, that a single report in connection with Mayor Alfredo Aleman was the basis for the foreign newspaper headlines. These newspapers sent their own experienced reporters to dig up information for the stories they published. The president should investigate the charges and not hurl capricious accusations. The facts were there and will remain until an investigation clarifies this case.

No one has personally accused the president. He does not, therefore, have to wrap himself up with the Panamanian flag and also wear the U.S. flag. [U.S. Ambassador William] Hughes, in turn, should know that Panama is much more than its president and the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party]. [Former U.S. Ambassador Ambler] Moss forgot this and we all know what happened to him.

Panama: Canal Commission Evaluates Toll Increase Possibility

PA1406151596 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 14 Jun 96 p A1

[By Jacqueline Clarke]

[FBIS Translated Text] Panama Canal Commission Administrator Gilberto Guardia said yesterday that the Commission is studying the possibility of increasing its tolls to be able to implement its Canal modernization program until the year 2005. The cost of this program has been estimated at 500 million balboas.

Guardia said that the budgeted maintenance program involves from 70 million to 80 million balboas annually and unless "some serious change is made to the law that rules this, which is still a U.S. law," this program can be implemented "without shocking the Canal."

The administrator said that a toll decision will be adopted once the analysis of the budget for 1997 and 1998, based on projections from current Canal transiting permits, is completed.

Guardia said that any toll increase would take place within the parameters of the maritime industry so as not to encourage any search for alternatives to the Panama Canal.

Guardia admitted the Commission is concerned about the large amount of money the Canal needs for its modernization program, which began with the Gaillard Cut expansion and includes other programs to speed up Canal transiting.

The process for increasing tolls is as follows: First, the administration proposes the idea to the board of directors. If the board concurs, it will hold a meeting with maritime enterprises so that they may have an opportunity to express their concerns, which are analyzed by the Commission, Guardia explained.

Guardia recalled: When the Canal Administration needed larger resources in the past, toll increases were ordered and it should be considered that the most recent one took place in 1992.

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Bolivia

Bolivia: Minister Justifies OAS Rejection of Helms-Burton Law

PY1506030796 Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 6 Jun 96 pp A1, A2

[FBIS Translated Text] La Paz, 5 Jun (LOS TIEMPOS) — The Bolivian Government does not fear "possible retaliation" by the United States, as a response to a proposal raised by Bolivian Foreign Minister Antonio Aranibar. The proposal promoted an action — among all OAS member countries — to condemn the U.S. "Helms-Burton" law.

At Government Palace on 4 June, Jose Guillermo Justiniano, minister of the Presidency of the Republic, said: "No, I don't believe it, as such a measure would affect all OAS member countries, except for the United States. The way the meeting was handled is a matter of form. The different concepts regarding the U.S. law are a matter of substance. These different concepts should lead to discussions and, hopefully, to a resolution."

Justiniano described as "a historic landmark" the decision by nearly all OAS member countries — except for the United States — against this law enacted by the United States that seeks to impose extraterritorial measures.

Justiniano indicated that the nearly unanimous rejection of the "Helms-Burton" law represents "a crisis" for the United States "in terms of the way of perceiving international policy."

The minister of the Presidency said: "The fact that the United States was the only OAS member country that disagreed on a decision made within the framework of the OAS and under the sponsorship of the Rio Group clearly indicates that there are different perceptions and that this will require a process and, necessarily, in-depth discussions on this issue."

The proposal to condemn the "Helms-Burton" law was raised by Bolivian Foreign Minister Antonio Aranibar. As Rio Group pro tempore secretary, Aranibar pointed out the "extraterritoriality" of the above-mentioned U.S. law.

This law, which was presented by two radical U.S. legislators, imposes economic sanctions on countries — or companies — that have trade ties with Cuba.

It is believed that the OAS resolution represents one of the first blows — and the most serious one — against this law since its enforcement, as all the countries from Canada to Argentina, including the Caribbean countries, have condemned it.

Justiniano therefore supported Minister Aranibar's proposal, as it was raised within the Rio Group and OAS standard framework.

Justiniano said: "It is necessary to acknowledge the existence of a critical point that deserves consideration — in this case, by the U.S. Government."

Bolivia: News Summary for 13 Jun

96CA0202A (Internet) Bolivian Social Communications Ministry WWW in Spanish 13 Jun 96 Morning Edition

[From the Computer Services Network of the Bolivian Social Communications Ministry http://utama.bolnet.bo:80/mcs/matind.htm]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted]

Front Page News Briefs

MNR Disregards President in 'Sobredietas' Case

President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada wants the MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement] deputies who received 'sobredietas' [congressional corruption scandal in which deputies tried to lengthen their government service time to qualify for larger longevity bonuses] to be turned over to the regular judicial system. But Guillermo Bedregal, deputy director of the MNR and a possible presidential candidate in 1997, is preventing that from happening and is ignoring the president's words. The MBL [Free Bolivia Movement] is furious. It is ready to break off its legislative pact with the MNR. The president will meet with his party today, and we shall see who will prevail. [passage omitted]

Political News [passage omitted]

IDB Governability Loan Signed

A loan agreement for U.S. $12 million issued by the Inter-American Development Bank for Bolivia's National Governability Program and for the modernization of the legislative branch and the civil registry office was signed yesterday by President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada and David Atkinson, the IDB representative in Bolivia.

This loan agreement, for a program whose total cost is $14.8 million, was signed in a special ceremony held in the Palace of Government. The signing ceremony was attended by Vice President Victor Hugo Cardenas, the president of the National Electoral Court, Huascar Cajias, and the president of the Senate, Juan Carlos Duran. [passage omitted]

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Brazil

Brazil: U.S. Official Criticizes Telecommunications Policy

PY1406154796 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2148 GMT 13 Jun 96

[Report by Cley Scholz]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Rio de Janeiro, 13 Jun (AE) — A U.S. Government official has again described Brazil as one of the world's most protected and regulated markets, and noted that this factor is prompting foreign telecommunications entrepreneurs to invest in other countries. Stuart Eizenstadt, U.S. under secretary for international trade, made this criticism during a reception hosted by U.S. Ambassador Melvyn Levitsky for more than 400 representatives of U.S. telecommunications companies.

The U.S. officials came to attend Americas Telecom 96, an event sponsored by the International Telecommunications Union that is being held at the Riocentro building. [passage omitted]

The reception for the U.S. businessmen who are exhibiting their items at the U.S. stand was held at the Intercontinental Hotel in Rio de Janeiro. Californian wine and lobster mousse were served, and the entertainment included shows by mulatas dancing samba and salsa. During the conversation over dinner, one U.S. Embassy official described [Communications Minister Sergio] Motta as a "big mouth." [passage omitted]

Nelson Freire, president of the Brazilian Electro-Electronic Industry Association (Abinee), who attended the reception at the Intercontinental Hotel, told AE that Eizenstadt's criticism "comes from someone who does not have a full picture of the situation." Freire believes the Brazilian opening must be negotiated and implemented in a gradual, controlled way "on the basis of mutual concessions."

Freire regards the economic opening begun by the Collor administration as "hasty, confusing, and illogical." He added that Brazilian companies were operating in a protected environment and were ill-prepared to compete with companies that have more than 200 years of experience in international trade.

Brazil: Argentine Economy Minister Cavallo on Real, NAFTA

PY1506014096 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 13 Jun 96 p 25

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brasilia — Yesterday, at the end of his two-day visit to Brazil, Argentine Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo rejected speculation regarding the need to devalue the real. He said that with such a large volume of international reserves, which amount to $56 billion, there is no reason to devalue the real. [passage omitted]

Cavallo said he considers the pace of Brazilian privatizations as normal. He said he spoke with Industry and Commerce Minister Francisco Dornelles, who vowed that the administration is making an effort to expedite the privatization process.

The Argentine minister said that in the field of foreign trade, Argentina and Brazil seek to level their balances or to obtain a small surplus. According to him, last year, with the recession, Argentina imported a bit less and registered a surplus in the trade balance between the two countries, but in 1996 it would increase its imports to reach a growth rate of 5 percent of the GDP.

Cavallo said that any agreement with the United States on the creation of a free trade zone between the NAFTA (United States, Canada, and Mexico) and Latin America will be done in bloc by the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] representatives. With this, he ruled out the possibility that Brazil should lead the Latin American region in this kind of negotiation.

Brazil: Argentina's Cavallo Meets Malan, Cardoso

PY1506020596 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 13 Jun 96 p B8

[Article by Odail Figueiredo]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brasilia — Argentine Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo said yesterday he does not believe in the possibility of a devaluation of the real. "Brazil and Argentina are correcting the imbalances that take place when a stabilization plan is adopted. The two countries, however, do not plan to make any adjustment that could cause an unsettled situation and that could spoil the gains obtained up to the present," he said.

Cavallo met yesterday with Finance Minister Pedro Malan, and then had lunch with President Fernando Henrique Cardoso in Alvorada Palace. Cavallo and Malan discussed the social benefits of the economic stabilization. They met late in the morning in Malan's office. Economic Policy Secretary Jose Roberto Mendonca de Barros also attended the meeting.

Malan explained to Cavallo the results of a study by Economist Sonia Rocha from the Applied Economic Research Institute (IPEA) according to which 5 million Brazilians surmounted the poverty line since July 1994 with the implementation of the Real Plan. The Argentine minister said that the economic stabilization has brought similar results in Argentina.

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During a news conference, Cavallo attempted to transmit calmness regarding the two other big problems that are normally criticized in the Brazilian economy: the high interest rates and the public deficit.

He repeated the arguments often used by Brazilian ministers as he pointed out that the interest paid by public securities already dropped from 4.5 percent per month in April 1995 to the current 1.9 percent. He expressed confidence in the reduction of the fiscal deficit. "The Brazilian authorities have told me that the objective is to reduce the fiscal deficit and the figures indicate that that is already taking place," he said.

Dornbusch

Cavallo, who said he "is convinced that the rules" in the field of exchange rates "will be maintained" in Brazil, tried to downplay the statements made last week by U.S. economist Rudiger Dornbusch, who said that the real is 40 percent overvalued and who warned of a possible crisis similar to the one that affected Mexico at the end of 1994. "The impact of his statements lasted one day in the stock exchanges of Argentina and Brazil — no more than that," he said.

Cavallo said that in view of the fact that Brazil's reserves total $56 billion, "no one can bet that the market will manage to make the government devalue its currency." According to him, the total reserves "reach an impressive level." Cavallo believes that, from the technical point of view, it is wrong to speak about an overvaluation of the real.

Brazil: Jorge Bornhausen Appointed Ambassador to Portugal

PY1406145896 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Senate Foreign Affairs Committee has approved the appointment of Jorge Bornhausen as Brazilian ambassador to Portugal. Bornhausen replaces former President Itamar Franco, who will represent Brazil before the OAS in Washington. Former Senator Bornhausen has always been praised for his political skills and knowledge of international affairs.

Brazil: Bank President Views Losses, Reorganization

PY1406130596 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 9 Jun 96 p B6

[Interview with Bank of Brazil President Paulo Cesar Ximenes by Soraya de Alencar and Vania Cristino, in Brasilia; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [O ESTADO] Wasn't it a mistake to report, on the same occasion, that the Bank of Brazil [BB] had been accumulating losses since 1995 and that it was necessary to increase the bank's capital?

[Ximenes] I had no alternative. When I reported the balance sheet and the losses, I had to announce the need to increase the bank's capital. I had to do so because as I reported to the banking community that the bank had suffered losses, I had to add that the capital was going to be adjusted.

[O ESTADO] According to the evaluation made by your Finance Director Gilberto Caetano, the market did not absorb the dimensions of the operation.

[Ximenes] I could increase the capital by 2 billion reals [R] and adjust it to the Basel Accord and everything would have looked nice. Nevertheless, the problem about bad shares would have continued and, six months later, I would have had to increase the capital again. This would have been very annoying for the shareholders. It is absurd to believe that knowing the bank's situation I would have hidden these facts. In these cases, one has to say: I have a problem, this is the problem, and I urge everyone to help increase the bank's capital.

[O ESTADO] Apparently, however, the private investors did not understand the problem and did not contribute to increase the bank's capital.

[Ximenes] It is evident that to ask the shareholders to add six more shares to each one they had was a little too much. Particularly when the bank's image had been harmed by reports on its losses. This effort had a bad result because the loans the bank had granted were bad loans and the investors were urged to increase the capital by the exact amount required to solve the problem. Nevertheless, I could not have done anything different. I believe the strategy has been appropriate.

[O ESTADO] Wasn't it also a mistake to charge a subscription price higher than that of the stock markets?

[Ximenes] We considered the price for which the shares had been sold on the stock market in the 20 previous operations, figured an average of that, and established the subscription price. We have also made an analysis of what the bank will be like in the year 2000. The BB will grow very much and we have taken this growth into consideration in our projections. The situation has been double checked. Evidently, however, the price of the shares dropped when the market learned that it was necessary to increase the institution's capital. In order to stimulate the shareholders, particularly those who have been working with the bank for a long time, we offered a subscription bonus.

[O ESTADO] Therefore, you do not accept the fact that you should not have announced that it was necessary

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to increase the bank's capital on the same occasion you reported the bank's losses?

[Ximenes] I insist that I had no alternative. What else could have been done? I had to report the losses because this is a bank, not a corporation. I could not report the losses without announcing what was going to happen. Could I have agreed to leave the bank's assets below the level demanded by the Basel accord? I have 37 offices abroad. The bank's performance is closely followed at those cities. I had to report the bad news and, at the same time, the solution that had been decided on.

[O ESTADO] Now that the bank has more capital, what are your goals for the BB?

[Ximenes] The bank has been weakened by problems with its assets, but we have a program for the BB and the need to increase its capital is only one aspect of this program. The reorganization program started in 1995 and we are reviewing all the areas of the bank. We are reducing costs, dismissing people, investing in technology, redefining the bank's organizational architecture, analyzing ways of entering new markets, reviewing the bank's relations with its clients, and looking for ways to recover the money lent to insolvent clients. We are doing all that from a new point of view. Increasing the bank's capital is only one aspect of this program, but it is an indispensable one.

[O ESTADO] How long will it take to conclude this reorganization program?

[Ximenes] After July, the BB will already be operating with the results of the program. As the program advances in terms of investment in technology, the quality of our services will improve and we will recover our clients. We are creating specialized areas. This is a new way of administering a bank. [passage omitted]

[O ESTADO] How much of the bank's capital has been contributed by the National Treasury? It used to be 2% percent, right?

[Ximenes] This percentage has probably increased to 79 percent.

[O ESTADO] Isn't that too much?

[Ximenes] No problem. The Treasury will make more money. It purchased the shares cheap and will sell them for a lot in the future. [passage omitted]

[O ESTADO] What about the problem with the Mendes Junior construction company?

[Ximenes] Fortunately, this problem has been solved. We have collected between R400 and R500 million. As a matter of fact, however, the debt we are collecting from Mendes Junior is more than that and we will continue to fight for our rights at the courts. The company has debts with the bank. [passage omitted]

[O ESTADO] How much of the R2.8 billion you planned to bring back to the country has already entered our economy?

[Ximenes] We have already brought back R1.7 billion: the amount of the country's foreign debt owed to the BB, plus R300 million we had in investments abroad. These will return to the country in due time. [passage omitted]

[O ESTADO] Some clients still complain about the high cost of the banking services.

[Ximenes] As we invest in technology, our other costs will drop. I must work with lower costs. Through the program for investment in technology and downsizing of costs, we want to become the banking market's point of reference. Particularly because a public bank has the obligation of operating with lower costs. [passage omitted]

[O ESTADO] Is there a goal figure for the program seeking to reduce the number of bank employees?

[Ximenes] No.

[O ESTADO] But you must have an estimate figure.

[Ximenes] By reporting that we will dismiss people all we do is to feed news to the newspapers. This sort of thing does not help the bank at all. On the contrary, it only harms its image. We know the goals, they are part of our program. Everyone knows that we will invest in technology and that, automatically, I will no longer need some of the current employees.

[O ESTADO] Does the program contemplate the closure of offices?

[Ximenes] No, but I must improve their performance: improve services and reduce costs. The BB, which is a retail bank, will become a chain bank, but we will remain the largest bank in Brazil.

Brazil: Significance of Sao Paulo Elections Viewed

96SM0368A Sao Paulo JORNAL DA TARDE in Portuguese 10 Jun 96

[Editorial: "High-Risk Game" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] There is a popular proverb which says that "what has to be has great strength." We are reminded of that in connection with the comings and goings of the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] in Sao Paulo before the final announcement of former Minister Jose Serra's candidacy for mayor of Sao Paulo's capital. And the price paid for that delay by

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the PSDB in surrendering to "what had to be," besides the risk that two opponents of the Federal Government and the constitutional reforms will emerge strengthened, was the loss of support from the Sao Paulo PFL [Liberal Front Party], with the inevitable effects that will have on the PSDB alliance with the PFL at the federal level.

The president of the republic as well as Serra and his party knew from the start that the former minister of planning was the only PSDB candidate in a position to compete against Paulo Maluf's candidate and the PT [Workers Party] candidate, especially if the latter turned out to be, as it did, former Mayor Luiza Erundina. Moreover, neither of them was unaware that because it was closely intertwined with those eternal candidates for president of the republic, Paulo Maluf and Lula da Silva, and because it would take place in the PSDB's birthplace and in the place where President Fernando Henrique Cardoso [FHC] is registered to vote, the mayor's race in Sao Paulo would inevitably have the flavor of a pre-election poll looking forward to the elections in 1998. A foot firmly planted in Sao Paulo is essential to the plans of both Maluf and Lula. In both cases, their chances depend on the failure of FHC's administration and the Real Plan.

But once again, the PSDB and its top leader, the president of the republic, displayed their inability to plan political action when they failed to foresee sufficiently in advance the moves that would be made by their opponents, even though in this case—the municipal election in Sao Paulo—the picture now taking shape was foreseeable from the moment when the possibility of reelecting the current mayors was ruled out. Because of that, the president of the republic's party came very close to suffering the humiliation of participating in this election as a genuine outsider—just for the sake of appearances.

It was necessary for Maluf to display his undeniable professional skill by scoring two goals in the succession game right from the start—he picked a candidate who has every chance of being a votegetter, and he won the support of Sao Paulo's PFL—to make the PSDB take somewhat flustered action and manage, finally, to do what it should have done a long time ago. That would at least have avoided the trouble which the Maluf wedge in the PFL-PSDB alliance at the federal level will inevitably cause for President Fernando Henrique.

Although it is too early to assess the various competitors' chances in next October's race in Sao Paulo, it seems certain that the one in the lead will be candidate Luiza Erundina, who can surely count on the PT's electorate (from 25 to 30 percent of the vote). This means that she will almost certainly be a contender in the second round, although her final victory is improbable considering that she is also the candidate most rejected by the voters. In other words, the thing that will make the campaign exciting is the direct quarrel between Serra and Maluf's candidate, and Fernando Henrique's administration will take a good drubbing in that quarrel, with inevitable effects on the national alliance between the PSDB and the PFL.

Serra is certainly a very strong candidate. And if he wins, that will be great for the president: the administration will gain a political density that it lacks today and have more strength for continuing the program of reforms and trying to win approval for Fernando Henrique's reelection. But if Serra loses, it is obvious that the picture will be the exact opposite: the administration, weakened politically, may have to give up on the constitutional reforms, and Fernando Henrique will certainly say good-bye to reelection. It is a high-risk game for which the president of the republic and his party should have prepared themselves a long time ago.

Brazil: Status of Belo Horizonte Municipal Race Seen

96SM0368B Belo Horizonte ESTADO DE MINAS in Portuguese 10 Jun 96

[Editorial: "Election in Belo Horizonte Enters New Stage: Deputy Mayor" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] The mayoral race in Belo Horizonte is beginning to assume clear outlines today. With the candidates representing the two administrative machines involved in the race having been chosen—Amilcar Martins for Governor Eduardo Azeredo's PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] and Virgilio Guimaraes for Mayor Patrus Ananias' PT [Workers Party]—attention is turning to the other big parties in the capital and to another, separate issue: who will be Amilcar Martins' deputy mayor?

The first to look into that question—the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] and the PPB [Brazilian People's Party]—are currently making decisions regarding their participation in Belo Horizonte's election. The PFL [Liberal Front Party] is awaiting those decisions in the expectation that a settlement will be reached. After all, as far as the PFL is concerned, it is not very likely that those two parties will run their own candidates. For the PMDB, with its eyes on 1998 and no candidate in 1996, it would probably be preferable to lose with its own candidate if it had one rather than contribute to the plan devised by the PSDB for remaining in the governor's office.

If that were not a sufficiently strong reason, the personal disagreements between the bosses of the two parties

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would be enough to close the door on possible agreement between the two sides. The winner from all this is the PSB [Brazilian Socialist Party] candidate, Deputy Mayor Celio de Castro, who is not taking his eyes off the PMDB.

Personal issues are also hampering—if not preventing—attempts at rapprochement between the PSDB and the PFL. It is hard to believe that after being brought into the party at the hands of its greatest star, Senator Francelino Pereira, and shored up by the vote he received in the capital, Helio Costa is not the best choice for the PFL. And as such, it is not likely that he will agree to talk to the governor or, even less, give up his ambitions in favor of Amilcar Martins. More than political opponents, Azeredo and Costa are personal enemies.

With the PMDB and PFL out of the picture as far as possible agreements are concerned and Junia Marisa wanting to stay on as the PDT [Democratic Labor Party] candidate, it is up to the governor's office, with help from former Governor Helio Garcia, to persuade Joao Pinto Ribeiro (PTB [Brazilian Labor Party]) to withdraw from the race and rework the coalition (PSDB, PTB, and PL [Liberal Party]) that put Azeredo in power. But this also requires that Ronaldo Vasconcelos of the PL withdraw.

When it holds its convention, the PFL will not have just one candidate to present for the party's nomination in Belo Horizonte's mayoral race. With four potential candidates in the running (Helio Costa, Clesio Andrade, Eliseu Resende, and Paulino Cicero), it will be up to the convention to decide. At least that is what Helio Costa says.

Brazil: Alliances Imminent in Blumenau Electoral Race

96SM0368C Blumenau JORNAL DO SUL in Portuguese 10 Jun 96

[Unattributed article: "Development Plan for Year 2000" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] Blumenau—The agreement signed between the PL [Liberal Party] and PDT [Democratic Labor Party] in Blumenau on Wednesday of last week is intended to ensure a development plan for the municipality over the next few years, and it also targets the municipal elections in the year 2000. The two parties decided to give their joint support this year to the candidate who shows the greatest concern for the program for government instead of choosing their own candidates. In the 1992 election, the PL joined the Union coalition, and the PDT joined Long Live Blumenau.

Mercio Felsky, the PL's potential choice if it runs its own candidate, says the two parties are concerned about the apathy shown by the two coalitions on the question of formulating a program for government that will promote the municipality's economic development. "Our concern is the city. Joining a coalition just to be joining one will not work," he argues. And the president of the PDT's Provisional Committee, Wilson Lang, points out that the Long Live Blumenau coalition was warned as early as 1995 "that it was dealing with the mayoral race in the wrong way." The mistake, in his opinion, was that it was counting on reelection without training new leaders. "The PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] candidate, Dalirio Beber, does not have the support of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party], which controls the state government. That causes difficulties," he notes. He claims that the situation is the same in the Union coalition because of the PFL's [Liberal Front Party's] difficulty in picking a candidate for deputy mayor to run with the head of the slate, Wilson Wan Dall (PPB [Brazilian People's Party]). "In those coalitions, all they are talking about is names. The PDT and the PL want to establish new attitudes," he argues.

Lang says that the agreement with the Liberals does not rule out his party's participation in the Popular Front headed by the PT [Workers Party]. On the basis of that agreement, he says, it is hoped that the candidates will be able to sit down at the negotiating table and discuss Blumenau's development more objectively. According to him, the intention of the PL and the PDT is to restore Blumenau's representation at the state level. He notes that despite its economic importance, the municipality does not have a secretary in the current administration. "We must have a political feel for greater efforts and ignore minor disagreements," he says in conclusion.

Next week may be crucial in determining the support, alliances, and slates that will be involved in Blumenau's mayoral race. The PFL is nearing the deadline for choosing a running mate for Wilson Wan Dall (PPB) on the Union's ticket. From all indications, the nominee will be the president of the Municipal Executive Committee, Horacio Rebello. Together, the PPB and PFL are to meet with the PL and PDT to learn what the two latter parties are demanding in exchange for their support of the Union's candidate. The PDT and PL are also meeting with representatives of Long Live Blumenau for the same purpose. Whichever best satisfies the demands of those two parties will have their support in the election. For its part, the PT is scheduled to meet with the PDT for one more round of negotiations, since there is still hope of forming the Popular Front. After all those talks, the decisions regarding candidates, slates, and support will probably begin emerging next week.

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Colombia

Colombia: DAS Chief Denies Spying on U.S. Ambassador

PA1506124996 Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 12 Jun 96 p A1

[FBIS Translated Text] An informal comment made by U.S. Ambassador Myles Frechette to Foreign Minister Rodrigo Pardo about allegedly being spied on by the DAS [Administrative Department of Security] continued to generate controversy yesterday. DAS Director Marco Tulio Gutierrez counterattacked the charges and announced he will file a penal lawsuit against former Defense Minister Fernando Botero for slander and injury.

Gutierrez denounced as slanderous a recent statement made by Botero in his "From My Cell" bulletin about his close friendship with Elizabeth Montoya de Sarria. The DAS Director noted that the Immediate Reaction Unit [Unidad de Reaccion Immediate — URI], created in 1989, was not used to spy on the U.S. ambassador or to orchestrate smear campaigns against the relatives of Monsignor Pedro Rubiano Saenz [Santa Fe de Bogota archbishop].

Colombia: Serpa Rejects 'Exaggerated Assertions' from U.S.

PA1506194496 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1715 GMT 15 Jun 96

[From "The Midday Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Santa Fe de Bogota — Today, Interior Minister Horacio Serpa Uribe rejected statements made by U.S. State Department Spokesman Nicholas Burns, who threatened to turn Colombia into a pariah state if the United States decides to impose political and economic sanctions. Serpa said that these are exaggerated assertions [aseveraciones tremendistas] by an official who has never shown much affection for Colombia.

The minister spoke with journalist Jorge Rincon about the subject.

[Begin recording] [Serpa] We heard about a statement by President Bill Clinton, which seemed quite interesting to us. We also are aware of the U.S. State Department's official communique, which refers [words indistinct] that relations between the two countries are going to be [word indistinct] due to cooperation to fight drugs. We believe that President Samper's proposals should be analyzed serenely and calmly, and more objective opinions should be collected about these proposals.

[Rincon] Precisely, in connection with this statement, the U.S. State Department spokesman said [words indistinct]?

[Serpa] [Words indistinct] this is an exaggerated assertion of the situation by an official who has never shown much affection for Colombia. We hope that the U.S. Government analyzes with objectivity the process that has taken place in Colombia, which means the process is institutional, democratic, and the ruling was made by a popularly elected organization, the Chamber of Representatives. It made an independent ruling after carrying out an extensive investigation.

This situation should be compared with President Samper's proposals. This way, we believe that discussions will be conducted in a much better manner and put across in a much better way. The Colombian Government has always taken seriously the struggle against drug trafficking. It is no coincidence that results have been so spectacular. I would say that these are the most spectacular results that any country in the entire world has shown. President Samper has spoken with respect for the independence that the country and our government has. Fighting drug trafficking is a conscious act by the government and is the obvious wish of the Colombian people. We do not do this because of being forced to or because of being given fixed terms of time to accomplish this. It is a clear and conscious attitude and the result of a critical and objective analysis of the situation. It is a contribution that Colombia wants to continue to make to the world. No one should expect that we, Colombians, be the only ones to crusade against drugs, because this will not result in the desired effect. Instead, it has to be the entire world after the same goal. What is interesting is that a political resolve exists, that there are clear proposals, a great effort, and we hope that the other countries in the world accompany us. [end recording]

Colombia: Minister Calls For Preparation for U.S. Sanctions

PA1506123896 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 2330 GMT 14 Jun 96

[Report by Doris Diaz; from "The Latest News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Agriculture Minister Cecilia Lopez Montano has said that there are countries willing to help us in case there are possible U.S. economic sanctions. She was referring to the conclusions of the ministerial meeting of the (?Cairns Group) held here in Cartagena. She added that bilateral meetings were held individually by Colombia to secure support from New

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Zealand and Australia to enter the Asian group [not further identified] in the near future.

Minister Lopez said that last night's announcements by President Ernesto Samper Pizano, the measures against drug trafficking, as well as his call to national reconciliation should quell fears about possible U.S. economic sanctions. She did add, however, that we should be prepared. Let us hear her statement.

[Begin recording] [Lopez] I believe President Clinton's support yesterday for the result of the trial against the president is a ray of hope. The president has said that he wants to maintain good relations, but based on mutual respect. I believe we are entering a new phase in our history. I hope all Colombians will do that: begin a new phase.

[Reporter] Do you really think that there will be no U.S. sanctions?

[Lopez] I am optimistic. I believe we must be prepared, evaluate possibilities, but at the same time we must be optimistic. Let's assume that the United States will accept the president's offer. I believe that his announcement about the actions that will be taken against drug trafficking, the call he has made to national reconciliation — where there will be no winners or losers — opens a new phase for the country.

As a minister and citizen, I believe Colombia should accept that message. I believe we have all suffered too much. I do not know if all Colombians feel this way, but I do feel that we have all suffered too much. Let's begin a new phase, and let's transmit that message to the international community. This will help us. We should, however, be prepared. [end recording]

Colombia: DAS Director Resigns Over Gaviria's Release Plan

PA1606035696 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0408 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 14 Jun (NOTIMEX) — Marco Tulio Gutierrez, director of the Administrative Department of Security [DAS], today resigned in the midst of a scandal over the methods used to secure the release of Juan Carlos Gaviria, brother of former President Cesar Gaviria.

Gutierrez said in a letter that his resignation was due to strictly personal and family reasons.

However, local media sources commented that the resignation is related to the case of architect Gaviria. Gaviria's release was negotiated in exchange for the departure of the alleged kidnapers to Cuba.

The outgoing DAS director met with high-ranking government officials and close advisers for more than six hours, after which time the irrevocable resignation was announced.

After the release of the brother of the secretary general of the OAS was made public in the outskirts of the city of Pereira, Gutierrez emerged as one of the key officials in the investigation of the kidnapping.

As the hours passed, nevertheless, it was disclosed that the release of Gaviria took place following negotiations with the kidnappers, who had been captured by the police. They were later set free so they could leave for Havana.

At that time, Gutierrez appeared before news organizations to report that he did not know anything about the case. He was not even able to answer questions on why these people left, despite the fact that he was presiding over the agency that records entries and departures from the country.

The release even prompted negative reaction in the United States. Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart requested an explanation on the terms of an alleged agreement between the OAS secretary with Cuba to facilitate his brother's release.

Spokesmen at the DAS insisted that Gutierrez' departure "has nothing to do" with the way in which Juan Carlos Gaviria's kidnapping came to an end.

Colombia: Valdivieso on Inquiry Into Gaviria's 'Liberation'

PA1706033896 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1746 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 16 Jun (NOTIMEX) — Prosecutor General Alfonso Valdivieso announced today that he will investigate the operation that allowed the rescue of architect Juan Carlos Gaviria, brother of OAS Secretary General Cesar Gaviria.

The official stated that a prosecutors commission will fly to the inhospitable region of coffee-growing Risaralda Department where the release took place last Wednesday to find out the details of the operation.

Of course, he said, there will be an investigation of the negotiations the local authorities conducted with the kidnappers so they would respect the life of the hostage in exchange for the departure to Cuba of six persons, who according to the police, are relatives of the kidnappers.

The liberation of the OAS secretary general's brother took place near Dos Quebradas Municipality, 330 kms

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southeast of Santa Fe de Bogota, but it has become plagued with doubts following contradictory reports by the key players.

First, National Police Director General Rosso Jose Serrano said on Wednesday that Gaviria was "rescued" during a police operation in the coffee area, an operation in which the kidnappers were arrested.

The next day it was reported, however, that the kidnappers had returned Gaviria following negotiations with security corps in which the government of President Fidel Castro of Cuba participated.

Six individuals who were at first identified as members of the "Dignity for Colombia" group, which claimed responsibility for the kidnapping, flew to Havana. Marco Tulio Gutierrez, Administrative Department of Security director, noted that these persons were really relatives of the perpetrators but gave no further details. Colombian news media stated that this official resigned in the wake of this incident, but he explained that he will tender a "pro forma resignation."

"This week, I will tender my resignation to President Ernesto Samper Pizano to allow him to revamp his work team after the Congress absolved him in the investigations it was conducting" for alleged ties to drug trafficking, Gutierrez explained.

Meanwhile, Gen. Serrano said he accepted the prosecutor's inquiry since what is important is not to create conflict among state organizations but to establish the necessary conditions to show the transparency of the liberation process.

"I think the prosecutor wants a clear report on this incident, and we are preparing it and will gladly submit it to him as soon as possible," the officer concluded.

Colombia: Conservatives Seek Clarification of Kidnapping Case

PA1706032996 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1828 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 16 Jun (EFE) — The National Directorate of the Colombian Conservative Party [DNC] requested today that the government explain the participation of Cuban President Fidel Castro in solving the kidnapping case of architect Juan Carlos Gaviria, brother of OAS Secretary General Cesar Gaviria.

The opposition party also requested that the government clarify the contradictory statements given by authorities on how Juan Carlos Gaviria's kidnapping ended.

"What role did Commander Fidel Castro play in this process? What effect did this case have on Colombia's vote against the Helms-Burton law at the OAS?" These are the first two questions, out of 10, included in the DNC's communique.

Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart in the United States has also asked for explanations on the possible relationship between this kidnapping case and the rejection of the U.S. Helms-Burton law, which attempts to block foreign investment in Cuba, at a recent OAS meeting in Panama.

The DNC reiterated its satisfaction with the release of former President Cesar Gaviria's (1990-1994) brother but requested information on the group or groups with which the end of the kidnapping was negotiated and the conditions accepted in this negotiation.

Former President Gaviria has admitted that his family, with the help of Castro and Colombian authorities, negotiated his brother's release with the kidnappers.

Several of the kidnappers, who said they belonged to the leftist terrorist group "Dignity for Colombia" group, travelled to Cuba at the same time that the hostage was being released.

The DNC asks: "Who were the people arrested as a result of this operation and what is their current legal situation? Who were the people sent to Havana and which of them had pending legal cases or were already serving sentences?"

National Police Director General Rosso Jose Serrano and other authorities have given contradictory and confusing versions in past days. Initially, the government tried to present the exchange, which Gaviria had negotiated with the kidnappers, as a successful police operation.

"Is it true that the National Police rescued Juan Carlos Gaviria or was he simply turned over by the kidnappers? What other commitments did the government make with regard to this case? Were the negotiations made in strict compliance with Colombian laws?", are other questions asked by the DNC.

Colombian President Ernesto Samper has asserted that everything was done without violating the law.

"Will the government use this same type of negotiation in the cases of other people who have been kidnapped and are still being held? Was there any economic or political transaction to release Gaviria?" the DNC communique added.

According to figures released by the authorities themselves, approximately 500 people who have been kidnapped are still being held by their abductors in Colombia.

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The Colombian press in the past few days has expressed all those doubts — and several more — regarding the way the kidnapping of the OAS secretary general's brother ended. According to the Bogota EL TIEMPO newspaper today, well-known drug traffickers also participated in this rescue. The newspaper asserts that two important drug traffickers who are currently in jail pressured the "Dignity for Colombia" chief, Hugo Antonio Toro, alias "Comandante Bochica", as part of the efforts to solve this case.

Colombia: Envoys to Europe Congratulate Samper on Acquittal

PA1706035496 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1917 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 16 Jun (EFE) — Colombian ambassadors in Europe, except Humberto De La Calle, vice president and ambassador to Spain, have sent a letter to President Ernesto Samper congratulating him for his recent acquittal from the accusation that he won the Presidency with drug money.

The diplomats are celebrating "with great satisfaction" the decision of the Chamber of Representatives to "close" (definitively dismiss) the charges against Samper.

In addition, they stated that the international community "has appreciated the transparency and democratic rigor" of the parliamentary process that absolved the president.

The letter, disclosed today in Bogota by the Presidency, is signed, among others, by Ambassadors Jorge Bendeck (Germany); Enrique Gaviria (Greece); Ramon Gil Bermudez (Russia); Pedro Gomez Vila (The Netherlands); Carlos Lemos (Great Britain); Carlos Arturo Marulanda (Belgium and the European Union); and Nestor Humberto Martinez (France).

The ambassador to Spain and vice president of the country has not yet commented on Samper's exoneration, which was decided last Wednesday by the Chamber by 111 votes against 43 votes.

Colombian media have highlighted the silence of De La Calle, although Samper has stated that he expects and is confident that he will receive De la Calle's endorsement.

"He is not playing for the government on the visitor's team but on the home team," the president declared in an interview published today by the Bogota newspaper "EL TIEMPO," in response to doubts on the position of De la Calle.

Since the serious accusations against Samper were made one year ago, in the sense that he financed his campaign with millions of dollars from the Cali cartel, De la Calle has distanced himself from the government.

In his latest public remarks, the vice president affirmed, before the Chamber's ruling was issued, that Samper's acquittal would not resolve the serious political crisis Colombia is experiencing.

Colombia: Samper's Attorney Comments on Campaign Refunds

PA1506201596 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Jun 96

[Report by Esperanza Rico; from "The Midday Newscast" — passages within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Rico] Colombian President Ernesto Samper's attorney Luis Guillermo Nieto Roa described as strange the National Electoral Council's [CNE] decision that will attempt to recover 1.8 billion pesos of refunds from Samper's presidential campaign.

[Nieto] "I have expressed my opinion on various occasions. These refunds that the Liberal Party campaign obtained do not have any fault that could lead to the [word indistinct] of nullity that the CNE is now requesting. I believe that there is a very serious position at the CNE on the standards that regulate the refunds for [words indistinct] and those that regulate the refunds for political parties [words indistinct] specifically as is the case of the Liberal Party."

[Rico] Regarding the statements made by the U.S. State Department spokesman on the transformation of Colombia into an outcast country, he stated:

[Nieto] "[Words indistinct] I believe that this is causing a lot of harm to U.S. foreign policy. I believe that the U.S. Government should promptly explain and define its position toward Colombia."

[Rico] Finally, he referred to the request made by Senator Jaime Arias Ramirez, who is the Conservative National Directorate president, to the CNE for permission to exercise his rights to make a reply to President Samper's speech [word indistinct] delivered last Thursday.

[Nieto] "Apparently Senator Arias does not know the Constitution. He does know the meaning of the right to make a reply. According to the Constitution and the law, the right to make a reply is applicable when an individual, including the Colombian president, of course, uses the news media to make attacks against another individual, an institution, a political party, and so forth. In this case, I have not observed that President Samper has attacked either the Colombian Conservative Party or Mr. Arias. I do not believe that any correction should be made. I have not observed that a response

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should be made [word indistinct] the Conservative Party. The Conservative Party may have a different position, that is to say, what remains of the Conservative Party because everything indicates that nothing is left of this party, at least, from the Conservative Party that he now claims to represent. In any case, I do not see the reason for a request for the right to make a reply. In my opinion, it seems that Senator Arias does not understand the Constitution on this subject."

[Rico] These statements were made by President Samper's defense attorney Luis Guillermo Nieto Roa.

Colombia: Conservative, Communist Parties on Samper's Speech

PA1506160996 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 15 Jun 96

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] Senator Jaime Arias Ramirez, who is the Conservative National Directorate [DNC] president, asked the National Electoral Council (CNE) to allow him to exercise his right to reply to the Colombian president's television speech last Thursday on the Chamber of Representatives' decision.

In his letter addressed to CNE President Oscar Jimenez Leal, the Conservative leader argues that President Ernesto Samper Pizano's speech "ostensibly" distorted "the actual facts on a topic that significantly affects this nation."

For this reason, Arias asks to be assigned a television segment that will "allow him to exercise his right to reply to the president's statements on equal terms."

Arias referred to Article 35 of Law 130 of 1994, or the party law, and to Article 112 of the National Constitution, which provides for the right to make a reply.

The DNC president's request for his right to make a reply is based upon the fact that a week ago the Conservative Party declared itself as having the status of an opposition party since it does not have any of its members participating officially in the Samper administration thus far (although some Conservative members have been participating on a personal basis. [no closing parenthesis as received]

According to the aforementioned constitutional article, "political parties and movements that do not participate within the government" have, among others, the right to "make a reply through the state news media, in view of serious and evident distortions or of public attacks by ranking officials..."

National Television Council President Jorge Valencia Jaramillo and Communications Minister Juan Manuel Turbay were informed of the Conservative leader's request.

Arias did not give any details on the contents of the speech that he is preparing in reply to the head of state.

After Samper's speech was broadcast, the Conservative senator said: "We will study and examine the president's four legislative initiatives, and if there is anything positive in them, the Conservative Party will have no objection to support them."

Communists and the Crisis

Meanwhile, the board of directors of the Communist Party of Colombia also reacted yesterday to Samper's speech by saying that the Chamber's decision was "an evident carte blanche for the impunity that prevails among governmental circles."

"The triumphant presidential speech that was given after the acquittal does not seek a pluralist political agreement, as it proclaims. It is rather a revengeful threat of governmental authoritarianism, the dismantling of the policy of submission to a justice system that Washington has questioned, and the adoption of a 'strong hand' that the gringos [as received] have greatly pressured for in their attempt to finally achieve the extradition of Colombian nationals. In a word," this statement says, "this is Samper's submission to President Bill Clinton's mandate in order to win over U.S. confidence."

The board of directors of the Communist Party of Colombia announced that they will continue their campaign of collecting signatures through the Colombians for the Referendum movement in order to hold new presidential and congressional elections.

Colombia: Former President Pastrana on Samper's Acquittal

PA1506145196 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 15 Jun 96

[Communique issued by former Colombian President Misael Pastrana Borrero in Santa Fe de Bogota; date not given — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] The people honored me by electing me president of the Republic, and I fulfilled my mission with respect for every compatriot's rights and with loyalty to the principles and values that Colombia has defended and with the dignity that such a lofty position demands.

The Chamber of Representatives, which has a majority that has made personal use and distributed among

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their supporters the same illegal money that led to the case against Dr. Ernesto Samper Pizano, acquitted the president, and thus, confirmed that the moral legitimacy of power is not tarnished despite the fact that it was established that the campaign was financed by corrupt funds.

I cannot remain silent because that would be tantamount to agreeing with a decision that violates the most basic ethical principles and the state of moral law, which is the golden rule of our supreme law.

I am ashamed by the fact that the seat that bears the name of the liberator, who dreamed of a leadership symbolizing "moral power," is occupied by someone whose credentials are tainted by drug trafficking money, an activity that is considered by universal consensus today as a "crime against humanity."

I want my fellow citizens and the international community to know my position.

[Signed] Misael Pastrana Borrero, former president of the Republic.

Colombia: Acquittal Called 'Sadly Historic Episode'

96SM0436A Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 13 Jun 96

[Editorial: "The Government Acquitted But Not Cleansed" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] By the time these lines are published the House of Representatives will already have reached the decision that everyone knows it is committed to making.

President Samper will, in all likelihood, be acquitted, which is the same as saying exonerated before having been tried by his natural judges.

The logical, clear, democratic, and sensible thing, in addition to being the just and morally irreproachable thing, would have been for the House of Representatives to have transferred the investigation conducted by the Prosecutor General's Office to the Senate.

But no. Everything that was already known was contained in the decision, more electoral than political, to acquit.

If anything became absolutely clear at last Tuesday's session, following the balanced, eloquent, and convincing speech by Ingrid Betancourt, it was the president's responsibility with regard to the concordant events that occurred during the past election campaign. No one can say that this speech contained either excess or malice, only the strength of the facts, the incontrovertible fact of their existence, and, with that assumption, the clear and unavoidable demonstration that the president cannot, nor should he, continue in office.

Another thing will already have been said in the House, to make things final, during the exhaustive Wednesday afternoon session. The president will be acquitted or exonerated.

What will remain under suspicion, and will be condemned by the unappealable ruling of public opinion, is the conduct assumed by the House of Representatives which will be condemned forever by the "just verdict of history."

Minister Serpa, also implicated and entangled in the trial, and whose status has yet to be resolved, has already publically announced that there will be no room for indignation, nor will the president resign.

The difference between this public declaration and the provisional note that the president's lawyer is said to have passed to Representative Mogollon during the debate that is about to conclude, is nothing other than the difference between written and oral.

But orders are orders, and they must be obeyed.

The debate ended as was anticipated.

And President Samper, by this time, will have been exonerated or acquitted by the House of Representatives.

But not by the country.

The nation's trial, despite its announced presence in the presidential palace, continues and will not end until the outstanding accounts have been completely cleared up. The presidential campaign accounts and also the accounts which President Samper is obliged to settle with the country.

The trial has not ended. We repeat.

It continues, now with much more evidence not only about President Samper but about the entire political class which has been protecting him from moral attack in a manner that shakes the historical foundations of the country to their core and compromises its public and private moral sense.

Just as was anticipated, the acquittal has come upon us.

The government will have been acquitted, but not cleansed.

With respect to ourselves, as an independent newspaper and as responsible journalists, we have the peace of having fulfilled our duty of pointing out dangers, proposing solutions, and advising that the country's interests be placed before personal interests or the ambition for power.

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This same approach of remaining vigilant and reporting, without making any compromises with official or political groups, is the approach that EL ESPECTADOR will continue to follow in the new and uncertain phase which will begin following last night's sadly historic episode.

Colombia: Columnist on House Exoneration of Samper

96SM0371A Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 13 Jun 96

[Commentary by Fernando Cano Busquets: "Curious, Isn't It?" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] More doubts, more questions, more concerns still unresolved: this is the only thing left to us Colombians as a result of that "historic" trial of President Samper in the House of Representatives.

Neither the president's defenders nor his accusers have been able to put forth convincingly the irrefutable arguments that would, once and for all, have tipped to one side that absurd scale on which we Colombians have been perilously swaying since the president took office. The closing of the investigation with an acquittal, in any case cleverly arranged by the majorities in the House, will make no change whatsoever in the stance that had already been assumed "sentimentally" by both sides. Ernesto Samper is still equally guilty according to the former, and equally innocent according to the latter.

And this is terribly shameful for the president of the republic, but completely disastrous for the fate of the country. It is shameful for the president because, in view of his insistence that he must be allowed recourse to his natural judge, and that he also was entitled to be defeated or acquitted in a fair trial, the hope was harbored that, there, accompanied by evidence, with the pertinent arguments presented and the lies spewed by his detractors refuted, he would end up defeating all of them with the clarity and certainty of an irrefutable version of the facts.

But that did not occur, and it is for this reason that it is completely disastrous for the country. Because what transpired in the Chamber or, rather, what failed to be achieved in it, for better or worse for the president, is serving as a bridge for the two groups into which the country has been divided. This enables them to radicalize their positions, and to continue giving a little more of "much more of the same thing" that they have been contributing to our democracy: One group is offering advantages, to retrieve the legitimacy and governability that they have never had. And the other is offering feasts of reconstruction, in an attempt to vindicate themselves of the remorse that they feel now for not having done anything in the past to prevent the drug traffic from infiltrating all our activities.

Hence, popular referendums and honking in the streets are being predicted, as are incendiary speeches by Serpa and the industrialists, incitement to support and repudiation, marches for and against, distribution of funds to attract friends, and collection of funds to prompt ememies to give up. Shootings? Bombs?

"Curious, isn't it?" remarked the "journalist" Giraldo to his interlocutor, Rodriguez Orejuela, on one of the cassettes, "Samper's fate lies in your hands, how about that?" Now that the natural judge has ruled in Samper's favor, "curious, isn't it?" could be paraphrased by saying: "The country's fate lies in your hands, president."

Because it is so: because, as has been the case ever since all those machiavellian deeds that had been organized "behind his back" began to be discovered, only he has the authority to change the course of that tragic destiny that is apparent for Colombia. He can use it now that his natural judge has acquitted him. He can try it out now that he has achieved that dignified outlet that he sought so avidly at the most critical times in the proceedings. He can lead with it now, when it is not yet too late to do so. But with all those lingering doubts, it is not exactly by maintaining himself in power that he will succeed in saving the country.

Colombia: Commander on Creation of Border Area Battalion

PA1406172196 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Jun 96

[From the "RPC Television News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Colombian 17th Brigade Commander General Rito Alejo del Rio asserted in Bogota that the Colombian Army will create a 450-men counterguerrilla battalion to control the Colombia-Panama border area. The task force will be based in the Unguia municipality in the Colombian northeast and will be operational before the end of this month, Gen. Del Rio has reported. He also said that the new battalion will be under his command. The Colombian decision takes place a few weeks after the Republic of Panama, confronted with the presence of Colombian drug traffickers in Darien, authorized U.S. troops to conduct exercises in that province.

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Paraguay

Paraguay: Wasmosy Gives Account of April Crisis

PY1306180096 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1430 GMT 12 Jun 96

[Address to the nation by President Juan Carlos Wasmosy from Government Palace in Asuncion — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Chairman of Congress, members of the senate and chamber of deputies, Apostolic Nuncio, members of the diplomatic corp, generals and admirals of the nation, ladies and gentlemen, fellow countrymen:

The patience cultivated in my capacity as president of the Republic is the reason why — with an apparent delay — only today am I disclosing to the citizenry the truth of the events we experienced 22-25 April when an attempt was made to drag our country back to the messianic authoritarianism which painfully belongs to our history.

People say that a revolution devours its children but it is also true that there are children of the revolution that try to devour the revolution. There are children of the revolution who unsuccessfully try to contradict the mandates of history and end up distorting the meaning of the heroic deeds encouraged by an unbridled and insane ambition.

On 2-3 February 1989, as you all know, a group of military commanders, moved by a patriotic feeling, decided to interpret the feeling of the entire Paraguayan citizenry and remove the obstacle that prevented us from starting and making viable the restoration of democracy and the true respect for human rights in our fatherland.

At that time those commanders were aware that they were only carrying the torch of freedom for which many generations of civilian and military heroes had determinedly fought, inspired by the ideal of a free and fair fatherland.

Moved by that faith and encouraged by that decision, they engaged in a civilian and military vindication deed that enjoyed the unanimous support of the Paraguayan citizenry and the international community.

Dazed by the success of these events and driven by messianic passions, Gen. Lino Oviedo started a hallucinating race in search of strictly personal gain, forgetting that balanced and sensible people, as well as knowing how to do their job with determination and courage at crucial moments, are also capable of modestly returning to the peace of their daily jobs.

You will now listen to the reliable testimony of the president of the Republic. I will report these facts before my fellow countrymen, the other government branches, and the international community's public opinion. As a result of this testimony, the truth will become known and it will be proven that Gen. Lino Oviedo's allegations before the Congressional Investigating Committee of our National Congress, whose presence I also thank here, is but an array of fabrications, fibs, and alleged alibis in a cunning and clumsy attempt to shun his unavoidable responsibility for having assumed in April an attitude that has threatened the Republic's institutional order and has betrayed the spirit of the February 1989 heroic deed.

I will now report the facts that preceded the April incidents: One of the most relevant tasks my administration has been fulfilling since August 1993, is that of institutionalizing the Paraguayan Armed Forces. In order to evaluate the magnitude of this commitment, we must keep in mind that, for the first time in many years, a civilian president has become the country's Armed Forces commander in chief. This is a unique thing in our country. We have traditionally had an authoritarian culture and our civilian power has, for many years, been clearly submitted to military power.

My administration, however, has succeeded in drastically neutralizing this imbalance. We have done it in a short period of time and without having shed a single drop of blood. Within this process of Armed Forces institutionalization, I have implemented several measures during my first two years in office. All of these measures have been implemented within an organizational framework and without any specific difficulty, as I have been often repeating.

Gen. Oviedo, however, has been a constant obstacle to these measures in view of his increasingly intense eagerness in occupying positions and adopting or implementing decisions that were out of his range of power. I have been permanently aware of the danger his attitudes represented for the preservation of institutionality and the consolidation of democracy, which we have been building with so much effort.

Together with several military commanders, I have often evaluated the political, military, social, and human cost the decision to place Gen. Oviedo on the retirement list might have. It was becoming increasingly more necessary to make this decision, because Oviedo's presence at the head of the Paraguayan Army was clearly distorting the institutional role the Armed Forces should play in the country. Whenever the need to put Oviedo on the retirement list was mentioned, I was always urged to act cautiously. It was often mentioned, and everyone was certain, that Oviedo would react with violence and rebel against the decision. Meanwhile, we had been overcoming several crises, such as the December 1994 and the August 1995 ones. These crises

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proved that Gen. Oviedo was ostensibly becoming an ambitious military officer, that he was eager for power, and that, under the Army's military uniform disguise, he was leading an active political life.

Based on the above reasons, I started to adopt special measures, among which I should emphasize the transfer of the Air Force planes from their regular location to a new, strategic location. This move was designed to remove these planes from the area of influence and from the shooting range of the units under the command of the rebel officer.

Hence, I ordered that fighter planes be transferred to the Ayolas air base, but this action was not successfully accomplished. In fact, as the planes were already at the Ayolas air base, an incident occurred that was detailed in a report submitted by Air Force Major Heriberto Insurralde, commander of the reconnaissance and attack squad.

Major Insaurralde submitted the above report on 1 September 1995 to Colonel Francisco Zarza Benitez, commander of the Air Tactical Group. Relevant passages of the report — copies of which are available to those interested — states: At approximately 1100, I returned to the airfield to go back to Asuncion. At that time, Air Force Captain Edgar Ramos reported to me that lieutenant colonels Visconte, of the 2d Corps; and Benitez, commander of the local Army battalion; and two infantry lieutenants, unexpectedly arrived at the base and broke into the area where the air squad was operating, at the Ayolas air base. Without giving explanations and citing orders from General Candia Flores, Lt. Col. Visconte ordered the Air Force officers to immediately leave the base, with all of the aircraft, noting that if this order was not obeyed, Army personnel would surround the area.

Capt. Ramos told Visconte that the Air Force personnel were complying with orders from the Air Force commander and that they would not leave the base because their priority was to comply with their flight training schedule. Lt. Col. Visconte again told Capt. Ramos that he was not interested in Ramos' orders, because he said that he was going to do whatever is necessary to comply with his orders from Gen. Candia. You all know what Gen. Candia's situation is.

For his part, Gen. Cesar Cramer [Air Force commander] on 13 October 1995 filed a report to the commander of Military Forces [Gen. Silvio Noguera] to inform him about the problems provoked by the use as a target range by the Air Force of the land that formerly belonged to Copacar [Paraguayan Meatpacking Company] in the Chaco'i district, which is adjacent to the land of Mr. Jorge Vargas Zavala. The main problem was that target practice was damaging the land of Mr. Vargas Zavala because, in drought seasons, blank cartridges started brush fires.

In the face of these problems, the Military Forces and Air Force commanders and I decided that my ranch located in the northern part of the country was the best suited place for lodging the planes. For this purpose, I ordered that the airfield of my ranch be adjusted accordingly. I would like to expressly state here, gentlemen, that I used my personal funds to finance the costs involved in this operation, which was implemented by my company.

The Paraguayan people, who are always alert and who are sensitive to the signs and effects of this crisis, could not understand why it was taking me so long to take an exemplary action to punish the misbehavior — sometimes open and sometimes disguised, albeit always cynical — of the Army commander.

Because I felt obliged to act prudently awaiting for military and political conditions that would be most conducive to making a final decision, I had to pay a high political price in the eyes of my fellow countrymen. I was convinced that the ultimate result would far outweigh the face-losing process I was experiencing for the sake of my unshakeable resolve to once and for all solidify the process.

Let me touch now on my decision to replace the Army commander. Gen. Oviedo's growing involvement in politics — either openly or in a disguised way, or through spokesmen — such as his brazen interference in the process leading to the Colorado Party internal elections; his pressures to influence the appointment of new judges — you may remember this — and his meddling in legislative issues to the detriment of national interests; and the growing uneasiness among many senior officers, including the commander of Military Forces and of the other two military forces; made me decide to relieve Gen. Oviedo from his post, and thus put to the test the strength of our republican institutions.

Therefore, on 22 April, I summoned Gen. Oviedo to Government House to inform him about my decision to relieve him of his command. I reminded him of the fact that I had been vested with the power of ruling our Republic and that his duty as soldier was to obey the order given by his superiors. On that occasion, the former Army commander — who now vaunts his punctilious observance of military discipline and system — committed the first act of disobedience. He refused to accept the president's decision to relieve him of his command and requested that [former president] General Andres Rodriguez intervene in this affair. In light of the

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central role the latter played in the events that took place in February 1989, I accepted this request.

Nevertheless, this acceptance did not imply in the least that I intended to go back on the decision I had made. After contacting Gen. Rodriguez to make sure he would come to my office, I summoned Military Forces Commander Gen. Silvio Rafael Noguera and in Gen. Oviedo's presence, I ordered Gen. Noguera to convene the commanders of the three branches of the Armed Forces for a meeting at noon. When Gen. Noguera and I were left alone, I instructed him to prepare and remit to me the general order establishing the relief of Gen. Oviedo as Army commander, his replacement by Gen. Oscar Diaz Delmas, and the appointment of the commander of the Military Forces to preside over the ceremony in which Gen. Oviedo would hand over him command to Gen. Diaz Delmas with the formality of the occasion pursuant to standard procedure.

After all this was done, I met with Gen. Noguera, [Navy Commander Rear Admiral Carlos] Lopez Moreira, [Air Force Commander General Cesar] Cramer, and Gen. Oviedo in my office at the Armed Forces headquarters to inform them about my talk with Gen. Oviedo and my decision to relieve the latter of his command. I subsequently handed over to Gen. Oviedo General Order No. 91 instructing him about his relief and I left.

As far as the way Gen. Oviedo's relief of his command was implemented and the holding of the ceremony in which Gen. Oviedo handed over his command to Gen. Diaz Delmas, I can assure you that the respective documents fully abide by the laws and standard procedure within the Armed Forces. The judge who is hearing this case will be able to confirm this. Here I have with me orders signed by [former Presidents] General Stroessner, Gen. Rodriguez, and myself, and also the order instituting the relief of several commanding generals imparted in Gen. Oviedo's presence. Thus, the former Army commander's allegations are wholly fallacious.

Following the meeting at the Armed Forces headquarters, Gen. Noguera informed me that Gen. Oviedo had refused to accept his relief in the presence of the other commanders who were present there. In a move that sought to irresponsibly implicate his subordinates in his coup attempt, Gen. Oviedo said that his subordinates had to give this matter their careful consideration. In other words, Gen. Oviedo intended his subordinates to discuss whether or not he should obey an order given by the commander in chief of the Armed Forces. This is an admissible behavior in a military man who boasts about being a model soldier within obedient and nondeliberative Armed Forces, as provided for in the Constitution. This was obviously a second act of disobedience.

As if other pieces of evidence in support of Gen. Oviedo's flagrant misbehavior were missing, the former Army commander had no sooner left the meeting at around 1230 on that same day than he broke his commitment to deal with this subject with utmost prudence, which according to Gen. Oviedo's testimony before the CBI [Congressional Investigating Committee], the commanders of the Armed Forces had assumed during the meeting that had just ended.

As if there wasn't enough evidence of his obvious misbehavior, barely after leaving the meeting — at approximately 1230 that same day — he broke the promise to handle the issue as prudently as possible. According to what Oviedo told the CBI, this promise was made by the commanders during the meeting they had just held. He immediately started getting in contact with a series of people and started leaking to his spokesmen, supporters, and sectors of the media that Gen. Oviedo had been unfairly and illegally relieved which generated a wave of rumors that started creating the adequate climate for his plot. Some sectors of the media even reported that Oviedo supporters in the interior of the country were on their way to Asuncion summoned to support him.

Continuing with his rebellious attitude, Gen. Oviedo, according to what he himself said, installed himself in his home and started the process that kept the citizenry fearful of a possible military clash with unpredictable consequences.

The house to which Gen. Oviedo refers to in his statements is located inside the military compound of the First Cavalry Division, inside the First Army Corp. The house is located next to the main entrance of the Third Cavalry Division, an elite corp of the First Cavalry Division, from where the 2-3 February 1989 actions were conducted as you may well recall.

Gen. Oviedo did not leave his home, which means that he did not only use it to rest and share with his relatives, but also to conduct the serious developments that started on 22 April.

In fact, since then and until early on 23 April, he summoned and gathered in his home numerous civilian and military authorities, among them senators of the Republic and some well-known politicians of his partisan faction. He informed them and even showed them the paper which, according to him, the president himself had placed on his desk. He was referring to General Order No. 91 issued by the office of the commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

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The meetings promoted by Gen. Oviedo thus started in an attempt to find a formula that would allow him to emerge unharmed from the difficult situation his refusal to obey the orders of the commander in chief had place him in either by trying to get me to revoke the general order or to resign as president of the Republic.

In his briefing to the CBI, Gen. Oviedo admits and mentions having got in contact by telephone or met in his home in the military compound with Victor Galeano, Francisco Appleyard, Senator Amado Yambay, and Congress Chairman Milciades Rafael Casabianca, among others, as well as with several generals. He spoke to all of them about my decision to relieve him but never clearly told any one of them that he was going to obey my orders. Quite the contrary, he insisted in questioning the validity of the General Order, insisting that it be annulled. I am now proving to you that this order is perfect.

In the meantime at Mburuvicha Roga [presidential residence] where I was meeting with members of my cabinet, advisers, and ambassadors — almost all of them of friendly nations — we began to receive reports on the rebellious attitude of the Army commander. At approximately 1630 that afternoon, after returning from Buenos Aires, Gen. Andres Rodriguez came to Mburuvicha Roga. He had come back, as you all know, at the request of Gen. Oviedo who urgently demanded his presence so that the three of us could assess the situation. This is exactly what Gen. Oviedo told the CBI.

However, Gen. Oviedo never appeared at the meeting, despite the fact that he was the person most interested in meeting with Gen. Rodriguez and me. In the presence of the commander of the military forces, I informed Gen. Rodriguez about what had happened in the morning at Government Palace and at noon at the Armed Forces headquarters and I confirmed to him the irrevocable decision to relieve Gen. Oviedo as Army commander, noting that the only reason why I accepted his participation was to persuade Gen. Oviedo to obey General Order No. 91. Gen. Rodriguez told he me shared my decision and that in view of the fact that Gen. Oviedo had failed to attend the meeting he would go to his home on the military compound to reiterate to him the need to obey my decision.

In the meantime, I received a phone call from Engineer Enzo Debernardi who informed me he had been phoned by someone who identified himself as Gen. Oviedo and said that he would not hand over the post. That person did not explain what he was referring to. Debernardi offered me his good offices to carry out my instructions in order to avoid a bloodshed. Later on Gen. Rodriguez phoned me and told me his efforts had failed because Gen. Oviedo told him he was not going to obey my orders and that the only solution to this crisis was for me to tear up the paper. He was referring to General Order No. 91.

In view of the obvious evidence of Gen. Oviedo's misbehavior, I decided to inform the people about the situation we were experiencing and, through this message, reiterate to the Army commander that my decision was irrevocable and suggest to him he give up his attitude or fully assume the consequences of his actions. Immediately afterwards I gave the commander of the military forces orders to alert the commanders of the rest of the forces, the national police, and presidential guard to adopt the necessary measures for the fulfillment of my orders.

As of that moment everyone of my efforts were designed to avoid a traumatic situation for the citizenry and institutions of the Republic with measures that could lead to an absurd bloodshed. In this effort I must once again acknowledge the permanent solidarity and the personal and institutional support I enjoyed from all political leaders, foreign ministers of Mercosur [Common Market of the South] friendly countries, his excellency the nuncio, the ambassadors of the United States, Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Uruguay, Venezuela, Spain, Mexico, Peru, and many other diplomatic envoys of friendly countries, personal advisers and friends who constantly accompanied me in the actions I had to carry out to gradually neutralize the plans of the rebellious military officer.

This process had bitter moments and times of uncertainty. Nevertheless, I was able to use strategies that would force the rebel to do the only thing he should have done right from the beginning: Accept being relieved, hand over his post, and await the decision of the commander in chief regarding his new military post.

During these days Gen. Oviedo made every effort possible to make me change my decision by seeking me to review the decision taken in order to seize political power through my resignation and that of the vice president of the Republic and by making veiled or direct threats regarding the imminent beginning of military actions against strategic objectives.

His modus operandi, obviously, was not an ostentatious and visible deployment of troops and military equipment. Because the Army commander is acquainted with tactics used in a political war, which he vehemently advocates, he was very careful to act in various scenarios, all depending on the witnesses and envoys he was using. At a given time he did not hesitate to suggestively and as if by chance show the units that were ready for

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combat, as I was informed by reliable people who had visited him in an attempt to get him to change his attitude.

At another moment he tried to reflect an apparent calmness and cold-blooded determination.

Undoubtedly, you wonder when to believe Gen. Oviedo. Either when he tries to attack and despise me or when he seeks to please me with adulations typical of the most servile servant. It is, in truth, hard to understand him. In the first place he tells the CBI that I am not capable of commanding the Armed Forces. However, in his 24 April message to me he mentions the happy experience of me being his first civilian commander in chief and asserts that I discharge this duty in an exemplary manner.

He told the CBI that cases of corruption can be attributed to my administration. However, in the aforementioned message, he praises my dynamism and high moral standards. He goes on to point out that because of these virtues all my subordinates serve me with loyalty and admiration. However, at the same time, he plans a coup d'etat to remove me.

Gen. Oviedo asserted before the CBI that he had not ordered that troops be confined to barracks nor be placed on state of readiness. But what need would there have been for that if on the occasion of cavalry day the cavalry's entire military power was gathered at Gen. Oviedo's residence that had become a true command post. He thus enjoyed all the necessary power to carry out the operations he obviously had planned.

In this regard, Juan Carlos Ramirez Montalvetti, chairman of the honorable Chamber of Deputies, in his note addressed to judge Corveta, asserts that when Gen. Oviedo was told about the need to find — through dialogue — a solution that did not entail the resignation of the president and vice president, the rebel officer accepted to continue the negotiations but said they had to be fast because they were 45 minutes behind schedule. What schedule was he talking about? In this regard Ramirez Montalvetti goes on to point out that: I thought it referred to the military plan mentioned by Casabianca as well as that suggested throughout the talks with the mentioned general. What I have just read is text of a part of the mentioned note.

It should be pointed out that Congress Chairman Casabianca informed me by phone about Congress' support for me in view of the situation prompted by Gen. Oviedo's refusal to obey my decision to relieve him as Army commander according to the information he had received from several legislators. That is what he told me. He then asked me about his proposal to try to persuade Gen. Oviedo to abide by the institutional procedures. I told him that I approved any initiative that may contributed to avoid a bloodshed.

After reading my message on 22 April, I received the chairman of Congress in Mburuvicha Roga who was coming from meeting with Gen. Oviedo at his headquarters. Casabianca told me that in view of his appeal to Gen. Oviedo to obey my decision, Oviedo told him that the only possible solution to avoid serious developments would be to revoke General Order No. 91. He also told me that during his first visit to Gen. Oviedo's home, he was able to see soldiers in combat gear armed for combat. I told the chairman of Congress that I would not change my decision by any means. I am repeating this in his presence. At my request, the chairman of Congress told some 10 ambassadors what he had informed me. Those ambassadors are also here now. Casabianca returned to Gen. Oviedo's headquarters to confirm the determination of my decision. Gen. Oviedo reiterated that the inexorable condition was to annul the order to relieve him, thus reiterating his decision to disobey the order.

In a subsequent visit to General Oviedo, Casabianca was asked by his host if he was willing to assume the presidency of the Republic on 23 April. General Oviedo exhibited to Casabianca a paper that he had received shortly before in a sealed envelope.

Casabianca told General Oviedo that he would be willing to assume the presidency of the Republic in case of the voluntary resignation of the president and vice president of the Republic, and through constitutional channels.

Casabianca subsequently explained to General Oviedo that the paper that he had exhibited did not contain any resignation by the president of the Republic and that, under these circumstances, he could not assume such a responsibility.

Oviedo wanted Casabianca to take his oath at 0800 [on 23 April].

In any case, then, Oviedo's attitude involved disobedience to an order of mine and blatant rebellion. As clearly evidenced by his deposition to the CBI, at no time during those strained hours of 22 and 23 April did General Oviedo indicate willingness to obey the contents of General Order No. 91 to any of the people convened by him or to the people I sent as envoys to his headquarters for gradually reducing his state of disobedience.

Quite the contrary, in keeping with Dr. Appleyard's deposition to the CBI, General Oviedo asked to draw up a communique for the public. Not a single passage

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of this communique expressed Oviedo's willingness to obey the order of relief. This communique, which is in the hands of the CBI, actually involves a series of accusations that have nothing to do with his capacity of a military officer or his duties as Army commander. The communique also did not specify that he was not in a state of rebellion.

Oviedo's attempt to justify his rebellious attitude before the public opinion can be easily noticed. Appleyard himself expressed that the communique was not published because General Oviedo had announced that he would receive the resignation of the president of the Republic very soon.

The truth [clears his throat] is that General Oviedo assumed inappropriate powers, powers that clearly prove his seditious attitude, as General Oviedo himself explained to the CBI when he accepted receipt, in his provisional office, of a note with my alleged resignation. Not satisfied with this step, General Oviedo engaged in misconduct by contacting the Navy commander, bypassing the authority of his superior, [Military Forces Commander] General [Silvio Rafael] Noguera, to transmit to him, via fax, my alleged resignation.

Going beyond even this step, General Oviedo also contacted the National Police commander, who is present here, with the same goal of releasing a resignation that he had not even received but was eagerly expecting in his provisional headquarters.

At this point, I want to explain that these incidents occurred at about 0200 [on 23 April], which indicates that the situation prevailing at the Cavalry on that day was not exactly normal, as General Oviedo and his followers want us to believe.

General Oviedo [clears his throat] recounted before the CBI the respects that he had received on the Day of Saint George, the patron saint of the Cavalry, but deliberately omitted reporting to the CBI that, after receiving these respects, a group of Army command generals went to his residence and told him that they were not willing to go completely along with him. In other words, they would not accompany him in this adventure or disrupt the institutional order.

Vis-a-vis my firm stance, the solid support of republican institutions, and the support of the loyal military and police forces, General Oviedo began raising solutions that were not as violent, which led to the well-known proposal of his appointment as defense minister.

Making use of unfair methods, Gen. Ovideo said to the CBI that I told a long string of lies. He said that I disqualified the vice president, that I said the people were cowards, and that I asked for his cooperation in staging a self-inflicted coup and dissolving Congress, in the Fujimori style.

He charged that during a meeting on the seventh floor of the Armed Forces Headquarters building I said the promotion of General Cirilo Velazquez cost me money, or that I paid for it. This is totally false, as can be testified to by all the people who were present on that occasion, and by those who are here now.

Concerning this last case, I remember that when a group of citizens burst into Congress — you will remember it — I went to the Congress building, which is the symbol of Paraguayan democracy, to reaffirm my unrestricted support for the legislative branch.

I also remember that after the approprite investigations were made, I ordered the replacement of the then National Police commander.

No one with a minimum amount of reasoning power could think that the president of the Republic has ever conceived of dissolving Congress.

The president of the Republic, as can be testified to by politicians, did his best to end the stagnation of the process of creation of the council of magistrates, which was a first essential step for renewal of the administration of justice. This step was taken thanks to the patriotism and fruitful dialogue between the representatives of the executive and legislative branches and political leaders who, on that occasion, demonstrated noteworthy mature behavior.

Gen. Oviedo also unfairly attributed to the president of the Republic the attempt to break the institutional order — the same president whose determined action led, after many painful difficulties and delays, to the successful implementation of the internal Colorado Party elections, the same president who, on 29 April, presided over the rally of reconciliation of the Colorado Party, greeting all candidates — winners and losers — and urging the Colorado people to wholeheartedly support freedom, democracy, and republican institutions.

Concerning his attempt to harm my relations with the vice president, I hereby confirm that our relations are cordial, harmonious, and respectful, in the official, political, and personal areas. I cannot complain about Dr. Seifart, from whom I permanently receive evidence of support and loyalty, which I value as a positive contribution to the democratic process.

Gen. Oviedo has also charged me with saying that people are cowards. Nothing can be as inaccurate as that.

I have always shown the respect and high esteem in which I hold our people. First, as an entrepreneur, with

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my efforts to create jobs, through which I could improve the entrepreneurial, professional, and technical capacity of Paraguayan workers in the eyes of the international community. Now, as president, with my full and loyal dedication to my functions, without relinquishing my deep conviction that I am the president of a great people who deserve stronger efforts, people for whom we are exerting our best efforts, from the president down to the lowest-ranking public servant.

During the days of the crisis, in which I once again showed that I respect the people and their will, I decided to withdraw the proposal to designate Gen. Oviedo as defense minister, and when I announced it to the people, I said: To make this decision I decided to listen to the people's voice, which helped me overcome my strong pride, and to understand that the people's will, which I must obey, is stronger than any commitment I may have assumed.

I must also mention, in this exposition, the essential role fulfilled by the most vigorous representatives of our national public opinion, the youth, and the entire media during those critical days.

I have already expressed my recognition to representatives of friendly countries. I underline the participation — in good faith and with high patriotic value — of political party leaders and legislators from the National Republican Association-Colorado Party, the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, and the National Encounter Party.

I especially underline the permanent and loyal support of my party, which made its position clear from the presidential residency and organized, on 22 April, a crowded rally in support of our institutions at party headquarters. They and other fellow countrymen from other political and trade associations participated in the grand and continuous citizen vigil for democracy throughout the crisis.

I must also recognize the important role of the vice president, cabinet ministers, and military and police officers who maintained their support of our republican institutions.

I applaud the important presence of the youth and the means of social communication in the crisis. Their substantive contribution helped me overcome every obstacle and carry on through the difficult moments and bitter tests that I had to endure until I could assure our only legitimate and truthful objective: The withdrawal from the military scene of one of the last representatives of a mentality that is contrary to the genuine consolidation of democracy in our country.

I know many people have reproached me for the many intermediate steps in this process. I accept their criticism, no matter how bitter they might be. It is possible that the process took longer than was desirable. Many details were not as orderly as we might have wanted. I assume, with the corresponding lights and shadows, the entire responsibility for these actions, no matter how unfortunate they might be. I claim for the entire Paraguayan leadership class, the people, our vigorous youth, and the political leadership the merit for a final victory over this attempt to slow down our march toward the Republic's democratic and institutional consolidation.

Summarizing, I state before by fellow countrymen, the judicial and legislative branches, and the international community: First, that throughout my administration Gen. Oviedo gradually turned into a progressive and manifest threat against the process of consolidation of our democratic institutions through his open participation in politics, within the framework of an ambitious personal project that had the purpose of his assuming conduct of the country's political affairs.

Second, the entire citizenry and the media were witnesses of this attitude and often reproached me for my apparent tolerance of it.

Third, during this entire period, my cautious behavior regarding Gen. Oviedo's replacement was exclusively due to an evaluation on the possible cost of an eventual confrontation between Armed Forces units and the unforeseeable consequences that this confrontation could have on the Republic's institutional future.

Fourth, this apparent long delay in replacing Gen. Oviedo and sending him into retirement was caused by a desire to find the most adequate political and military moment to prevent the general from immersing the Republic in a bloodbath and interrupting the country's democratic process. In this long vigil, I had to overcome all kinds of pressures, and even threats, without forgetting the political cost that this process had on the image of the president of the Republic.

Fifth, on 22 April 1996, after achieving a propitious climate in political and military circles, the international community, and the processes of regional and subregional integration, with which Paraguay is committed to consolidate democracy and respect human rights, I decided to implement my decision through General Order 91, which was issued through the exercise of my constitutional and legal attributions as president of the Republic and Armed Forces commander in chief.

Sixth, Gen. Oviedo, from the moment this decision was communicated to him — first orally and then in writing — interposed all kinds of objections and obstacles in an

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obvious attitude of disobedience and with the intention of inducing me to revoke my decision.

Seventh, in view of the firmness of my decision, Gen. Oviedo installed himself in his residence and held meetings and had conversations with civilians and high-ranking military chiefs subordinated to his command post with the manifest purpose of disobeying my order and overthrowing the legally constituted government, either through the use of arms or through diverse pseudo-constitutional subterfuges.

Eighth, from his command post, Gen. Oviedo threatened to begin military actions against the presidential residence, the Congress, and Government House, and to implement violent acts against me.

Ninth, confronting increasing and more powerful obstacles against his coupist intentions, Gen. Oviedo proposed to negotiate his replacement. At this point we arrived at the proposal of his designation as defense minister.

Tenth, I had, throughout this entire process, the patriotic support of my party and opposition parties' political leaders and I am thankful for their presence here today at Government House. They were conscious of the grave situation and fulfilled very important missions to defuse the crisis.

Eleventh, Gen. Oviedo must answer for his responsibility as a seditious military officer. He dishonored the cause of his comrades who, in February 1989, helped to install democracy in Paraguay, and the attitude of many more officers who have had, since that time, an exemplary attitude in defense of our Republican institutions.

Dear fellow countrymen, what I have just told you today is the truth regarding what happened from 22 to 25 April 1996. At the appropriate time, I ordered the opening of an inquiry in the military sphere. The Supreme Court, however, decided that the civilian courts had jurisdiction over the case. I reaffirm my full confidence in the judicial branch. I am fully convinced that the exposition of the truth will not only provide needed clarity to a process that created confusion among our citizens, but it will also permit the precise identification of the responsibilities and options of various participants throughout its duration. Finally, it will also benefit the irreversible progress of our fatherland toward the ideals of peace, progress, and democracy.

Paraguayan people, my usual respects and congratulations, and thank you for listening.

Paraguay: Judge Orders Arrest of Former General Oviedo

PY1406155996 Asuncion Radio Nanduti in Spanish 1532 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning, Criminal Judge Alcides Corveta ordered the arrest of General Lino Cesar Oviedo, retired, and stated that he must be remanded in custody at the military court premises.

Corveta said that once Gen. Oviedo is under arrest, he will determine the date and time at which Oviedo must appear before the judge to testify.

Paraguay: Judge on Decision Regarding Oviedo's Arrest

PY1506011796 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Jun 96

[Relay from the Palace of Justice by Eligio Farina Florentin — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Begin recording] [Farina] [passage omitted] Here we are again with Judge Alcides Corbeta, the judge who ordered General Lino Cesar Oviedo's arrest. The decision, obviously, had great repercussions here at the Palace of Justice and, I imagine, throughout the country. The order was sent through Usher Yamil Coluchi to the National Police and the Armed Forces commander in chief. Several lawyers have given their opinion, some of them in favor of it and some of them against it. Those opposed to the measure said the decision was hasty and those in favor said the decision was entirely justified. Is everything in order, Judge Corbeta?

[Corbeta] Yes, everything is in order. What had to be done was done. What I believe had to be done was done. The corresponding notifications have been sent and we must now wait to see what happens in the next few weeks.

[Farina] Have you given photocopies of the decision to Attorney Mario Elizeche? He requested a copy in Gen. Oviedo's name.

[Corbeta] Yes, simple photocopies only. [passage omitted]

[Attorney Julio Cesar Vasconcellos] I do not think the measure is justified. The document says the decision is based on the report sent by the president of the Republic. However, the president's report is so ineffective, so obscure and contradictory, that it cannot serve as a basis for any resolution.

[Farina] Are you going to defend him?

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[Vasconcellos] I hope the general will choose me as his lawyer. I want to have the honor of being Gen. Lino Cesar Oviedo's defense attorney.

[Farina] Have you spoken with him already?

[Vasconcellos] No. I have not talked with him thus far. I have just learned of the decision. [passage omitted]

[Farina] We heard outside that the resolution must refer to Article 337 and not Article 333. Judge Corbeta, could you explain the matter to us?

[Corbeta] Article 333 refers to preventive detention, while Article 337 refers to preventive imprisonment. I have ordered a preventive detention, which is spelled out in Article 333 of the Penal Proceedings Code.

[Farina] Judge Corbeta, Article 337 then refers to....

[Corbeta, interrupting] Article 337 refers to preventive imprisonment. I ordered Oviedo's preventive detention. After we hear his testimony, we will decide whether to lift the order of preventive detention or turn it into preventive imprisonment, in accordance with Article 337.

[Farina] Have you reinforced your guard today?

[Corbeta] Yes. I have not requested any reinforcements, but the police sent reinforcements anyway.

[Farina] What about the riot police — did you call them?

[Corbeta] No, I have not called them.

[Farina] Very kind of you, Judge Corbeta. Thank you. [end recording]

Paraguay: Oviedo Addresses Supporters Before Detention

PY1506030096 Lambare Paraguay Radio Cardinal in Spanish 2130 GMT 14 Jun 96

[Remarks by former Army Commander General Lino Oviedo, retired, at entrance of the Military Justice Detention Center in Itaugua — live; remarks within slantlines in Guarani]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Crowd receives Oviedo with shouts, cheers, and screams]

[Unidentified individual] Quiet, quiet, please. Please, I ask you to remain calm and show the spirit, the courage, and the composure proper of Paraguayans and authentic Colorados, please.

[Unidentified woman, crying] We are not cowards, General. We will spend the night with you here; if necessary, we will die here.

[Oviedo begins speaking] You may return with your usual peace to your homes.

[Woman] No, my General.

[Several individuals together] We will stay here with you.

[Oviedo] I want you to listen. Allow me, allow me [repeats himself] to express my feelings, particularly to reporters, who I am sure want to let our citizenry know that I am here as a respectful citizen and Paraguayan. [shouts]

I hereby state that I strictly and accurately fulfilled my duty to the executive branch on 24 April, when I followed the order of the commander in chief to surrender the Army command, and I did so without resisting. I fulfilled what was written in the papers and legal documents. Those documents were submitted to the Congressional Investigating Committee [CBI] and will be submitted to the judicial branch at the appropriate time. [shouts]

I also fulfilled my duty toward the legislative branch when the Congressional Investigating Committee summoned me to testify. I was there in time and withdrew when legislators told me that they were satisfied with my answers. [shouts]

Today I am fulfilling my duty to the third power, the judicial branch, which ordered my confinement, and here I am. [applause, shouts]

Yesterday, as I will always do, I spent the day working for humble people, for long-suffering peasants. [shouts] I have not changed clothes and I am arriving here to fulfill an order. [shouts] Please, please, hear me. Your concerns are probably included in what I will say here. Do not worry; stay calm. I trust democracy; I trust this son who participated [in Stroessner's overthrow] on 3 February 1989. [women and crowd interrupt, shouting: "We are here to thank you, my General!"] Those who still want to continue manipulating this people with their dirty money are wrong. [shouts] I told reporters as many times as they wanted to listen: General Oviedo will respect the legally constituted powers. Today I again tell them that I have fulfilled responsibilities toward the three branches. Mission accomplished, gentlemen of the press. [shouts]

I want to tell you, so you may go in peace, that — as we usually say in Guarani —/you can keep it at the center of your foreheads, when you sleep, and in your hearts/ — when the objective to conquer is just, ethical, and noble, the triumph is always assured. [shouts]

You can be absolutely sure that at no time, under no circumstances, did I order a self-confinement to barracks or issue instructions to get ready, as the press is publishing. [shouts] Lies have short legs. [shouts] I

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hope this president of the Republic.... [shouts against President Wasmosy] who speaks about institutions and independence of powers will permit officers summoned by the CBI to testify in Congress, and will let them answer the questions that the CBI submitted to them in three notes.

I also tell my Armed Forces comrades, through you gentlemen of the press, that I will return as your commander in chief. [shouts, cheers]

I have just been told that the most humble people, people who make me cry, are also here: Our forgotten Indians. [shouts] I know tuberculosis is rampant among them, that they are forgotten and neglected, that their lands are sold and you do not have any land. i tell you that you are also mentioned in my report, with documents. Pieces of land appropriated for Indians do not really exist. [cheers] There is no money for land, land does not exist, but the people are sovereign and will collect the bills. I have the documents. [cheers]

I tell my Armed Forces comrades — those who knew me for 37 years, three months, and 24 days — that I never refused to fulfill what I said, nor did I deny it. This commander in chief denies what he said on the seventh floor [reference to Oviedo's allegation that during a meeting on the seventh floor of the Armed Forces Headquarters building, Wasmosy commented on paying for military promotions, noting that promotions were costly] in front of generals, officers, great unit commanders, and unit commanders. He said that the straw that broke the camel's back was Gen. Oviedo's opposition, supported by Oviedo-Riquelmist [from Senator Blas N. Riquelme] senators, to the building of a bridge over the Parana River. [shouts] I am not, and will never be, in any of their corrupt projects. I am not part of their political project either. He probably wants another corrupt member of one of his companies to continue ruling the country after him. [shouts]

I will tell you something, so that you might rest in calm. I will not mention far-away countries. President Carlos Menem was also sent to prison for five years and he was reelected to a second term. I may also mention that current Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso lived in asylum in Europe and today he is the president of Brazil. I can also mention Nelson Mandela in South Africa and many others.

The judge's resolution is clear in noting that the entire affair is due to political reasons. This is what it is, ladies and gentlemen. [crowd interrupts] /I am too big a soldier and I am not part of their dirty deals; that is my sin./ [shouts]

Finally, I want to tell you, dear comrades, fellow countrymen, fellow party members, and foreigners living in the Paraguayan fatherland: I know you demand security; I know you demand social justice.

This president said a short time ago, through a recording, because he did not have the courage to speak directly to the public, that he respected the voice of the people who elected him president and this was why he did not name me minister. But you, and the Paraguayan people — remember that he obeys what the people say — will soon ask him to resign as president. [shouts]

I am communicating freely. The Unace [National Unity of Ethical Colorados] movement will continue moving forward, with more force and higher morale. [cheers]

Today the story is clear. I fulfilled what was required toward the three government branches, while he is afraid of what I might have said at the CBI on corruption next week. This is why he, the vice president, General Cesar Cramer, and the Supreme Court president called this poor Judge Alcides Corbeta to order my detention today. It was to prevent me from testifying at the CBI. [shouts]

I trust the justice system, I trust democracy. In any democracy, the people are sovereign and the people have truth and reason. [shouts] Finally, here you see me live. I did not hide at an embassy. [shouts]

What a sad history for the Republic of Paraguay. I am the heroic son of a hero who did not hesitate to defend the fatherland and make use of his rights as a Paraguayan. This president of the Republic abandoned his office, without communicating his whereabouts, and hid at the Yankee embassy. [shouts]

He showed himself as he actually is. First. he showed that he was the worst president in Paraguayan history.... [shouts] demonstrating total ineptitude. Second, he proved to be the most corrupt president in history. He proved to be the first president who cowardly abandoned his post. [shouts] History, this youth, the Paraguayan people, and the great and victorious Colorado Party will know this truth.

I also want to tell the gentlemen from the press, as fellow countrymen, and, if there are foreigners among you, as human beings: Let us build the country we deserve. Let us denounce the worst danger against democracy: This corrupt, inept, and cowardly government. Nothing evil lasts 100 years. We have our truth, we have our documents, and I tell you: Go back home. I do not want you to stay here. [shouts] Go home.

Allow me, with all respect.... [changes thought] Let us show them our generosity; let us show them our

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honesty. Stay calm: Justice must be independent; the truth must triumph. Democracy will permit this. The people are sovereign. Viva the great Colorado Party! [Crowd shouts: "Viva!"] Viva the long-suffering and hopeful Paraguayan people! May God bless us and help us take the right path. Thank you very much. [long shouts, cheers]

Peru

Peru: Salvadoran President Criticizes U.S. Trade Policy

PY1506035896 Lima America Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Visiting Salvadoran President Armando Calderon Sol today harshly criticized U.S. President Bill Clinton for hindering the efforts made by Latin American and Caribbean countries to establish a free trade zone in the Americas by the year 2005.

President Calderon toured the town of Poblado Menor de (Combayo), in La Encanada district, Cajamarca, today in the company of Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Aurea Sampen] Poblado Menor de (Combayo), in La Encanada district, is located 42 km south of Cajamarca, at an altitude of 3,400 meters above sea level. President Fujimori arrived in this township in the company of his Salvadoran colleague to verify how, with the effort and work of local settlers and the government's support, people can achieve development. [passage omitted]

The two presidents later signed and exchanged a joint communique. Undoubtedly one of the most important agreements Fujimori and Calderon signed is that regarding the establishment of a free trade zone in the hemisphere by the year 2005 with the objective of ensuring the inclusion of Latin American countries in the international economic scenario.

According to Armando Calderon, however, this will not be achieved if the Clinton administration persists in upholding an obstructionist policy.

[Calderon] We believe that the messages we are receiving from the United States indicates that it is against free trade. We are speaking of globalization and integration, but the United States is talking about quotas; it is establishing tariff and phyto-sanitary barriers. I believe, therefore, that by doing this, the United States is sending the wrong message. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Peru: Peru Demands Guarantors Stay Until Demarcation Ends

PY1406153696 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 12 Jun 96 p A6

[FBIS Translated Text] Peru maintains its position on the need to comply with Article 7 of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol. This article pertains to the important role guarantor countries must play and their active participation in the entire peace process until the boundary between Peru and Ecuador is fully demarcated.

Official sources reported on 11 June that Foreign Minister Francisco Tudela was always very clear on this point. He not only conveyed Peru's stance on this issue to the parliamentary representation but also made it known to the public.

The guarantors of the international treaty must be actively involved in all peace talks rather than intervening only when there are differences between Peru and Ecuador.

A diplomatic source said: "The mission of the guarantors is to ensure the protocol is observed and to prevent the parties from circumventing the provisions established by this protocol signed 54 years ago with the endorsement of the four guarantors, namely Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States."

It was learned that the Peruvian and Ecuadoran Foreign Ministries are working arduously to underpin the positions they will adopt at the meeting next week in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

This meeting, which is to be held in the Argentine capital on 17-18 June, has been convened to define the procedures governing the behavior of the Peruvian and Ecuadoran delegates who will discuss substantive matters concerning the pending impasses submitted by both parties.

During the first meeting in Lima on 17-18 January, Tudela and his Ecuadoran counterpart Galo Leoro reached agreement on procedures and mechanisms to be adopted to make rapid strides in future talks.

Both foreign ministers agreed on the make-up of both countries' delegations, even though the exact number of members was not established, and they decided that Brazil would be the venue for the meetings between the delegates.

An official source observed: "The number of delegates depends on the topic to be discussed. We will gauge the number of experts required for each meeting on the basis of how delicate the subject to be discussed is."

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Peru: Tudela Criticizes 'Altered' Ecuadoran Maps

PY1506011096 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 13 Jun 96 p A3

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister Francisco Tudela yesterday criticized the circulation in Ecuador of a children's picture album which, he said, does not help the current peace process with Peru.

Tudela remarked that although this is a secondary issue "that should be condemned," it should not tarnish the peace negotiations he will hold with his Ecuadoran colleague, Galo Leoro, on 18 and 19 June in Buenos Aires.

Tudela said: "Peru will not allow this to happen. This is why we are going to Buenos Aires with a calm and decided attitude. He added that the Peruvian Government is aware of the existence of publications and several announcements "made by Ecuadoran authorities or high-ranking civilian and military officials that are obviously not in line with a peace process." However, he said, "we do not grant as much importance to these issues as to the negotiations."

The publication Tudela was referring to is entitled "Ecuador, Not a Single Step Backward." It contains current maps that are completely altered and that falsely depict Tumbes, Jaen, and Maynas provinces as part of Ecuadoran territory. It is also distorting world history because it falsely identifies Quito, the Ecuadoran capital, as the capital of the Inca empire when in truth it was Cusco. [passage omitted]

Regarding the diplomatic mission that traveled to Ecuador on 6 June to verify the situation of Peruvian citizens missing in Ecuador, Tudela said that two preliminary reports have already been drafted and he is awaiting the return of the Peruvian officials to draft a final definitive report. [passage omitted]

Furthermore, Tudela denied the alleged establishment of new military watch posts on the Peruvian side of the Peruvian-Ecuadoran border, as was reported a few days ago by General Jorge Ortega, chief of the Ecuadoran Armed Forces Joint Command. Tudela believes that the Ecuadoran decision to establish military detachments at landmarks 13, 14, and 15 is a decision that has not been "sufficiently assessed." [passage omitted]

Peru: Tudela Says Dialogue With Ecuador Should Continue

PY1506021196 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 13 Jun 96 p A4

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Francisco Tudela said yesterday that Peru believes negotiations with Ecuador should continue and should not stop under any circumstance "because a diplomatic negotiations process is in itself a guarantee of a peace process."

He added: "The Peruvian Foreign Ministry believes the constant efforts made to include the military negotiations process in the diplomatic process is bothersome."

He stressed, therefore, that Peru will not allow the various imprudent publications, statements, and announcements made by Ecuadoran officials to tarnish the negotiations.

Referring to the upcoming meeting he is scheduled to hold next week in Argentina with Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Galo Leoro, Foreign Minister Tudela said: "We do not want such secondary matters, which are nonetheless reproachable, to tarnish the diplomatic negotiations. This is why we will attend the Buenos Aires meeting with a calm and decided attitude."

He described the comments made by some Ecuadoran military officers about the mobilization of troops on the border as inappropriate for a peace process.

Tudela confirmed that the Peruvian Government will insist on the enforcement of Article 7 of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol. He said: "It will be compulsory only if Ecuador decides to accept it. We are still dealing with something that has yet to be decided."

Article 7 of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol textually establishes: "Any doubt or disagreement regarding the implementation of the Protocol will be resolved by the parties as expeditiously as possible with the participation of the representatives of the United States, Argentina, Brazil, and Chile."

Tudela said that the meeting to be held in Buenos Aires on 17 and 18 June [as published] seeks to discuss procedures to unlock discussions on basic issues to be held at a future date in Brasilia with the objective of overcoming the impasses that are hindering the demarcation of the common border.

Regarding the situation of missing Peruvian citizens in Ecuador, Tudela said that the Foreign Ministry is drafting an official report to be submitted to the OAS Human Rights Inter-American Court and that he has requested the assistance of several experts because of the unprecedented nature of the situation.

He explained that there are three different cases of missing persons: The first concerns that of Lorgia Abad and three other persons, about which there is no evidence. There is another case regarding reports made by officials or relatives from different provinces and departments. As for the third case, he said this involves those people who were arrested and who allege to have seen other Peruvians who have been duly identified.

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Tudela said: "Peru will undertake actions only regarding those cases on which there is veritable evidence. Nevertheless, it will adopt all necessary steps to locate all 13 missing people."

Regarding the smuggling of Argentine guns to Ecuador, Tudela said that it is not up to the Peruvian Government to meddle in the investigation process because although Peru has been morally affected, it did not have any direct bearing in the case.

Asked what will happen if the investigation is lengthy, he said: "No government can force another to alter its judicial structure to please its needs. We must adopt a realistic attitude."

About reports stating that Chile has also sold guns to Ecuador, Tudela merely said that the Chilean Defense Ministry had issued a denial.

He also said that the Foreign Ministry has implemented a restructuring process to project Peru's presence abroad. Tudela said: "The structure will be decreased by eliminating some general directorates to allow a closer and more direct coordination with the foreign minister and the deputy foreign ministers. The personnel assessment level must be completed by 20 May and after this we will be devoted to designing training policies."

Venezuela

Venezuela: Foreign Fishing Boats Not Considered Invasion

PA1506122796 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2258 GMT 10 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Caracas, 10 jun (EFE) — The Venezuelan Government pointed out today that territorial violations by neighboring countries' fishermen cannot be considered "invasions."

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Burelli has rejected the interpretation that the illegal presence of Colombian vessels in Venezuelan waters is an invasion. He confirmed that such violations are frequently made by both countries.

Several opposition deputies pointed out that some Colombian fishing boats are trying to fill the void left by part of the Venezuelan fleet about 20 days ago when it was unable to leave port due to the strong increase in the price of gas oil.

"This is not only happening with Colombian boats but also with those of Guyana and Trinidad," said Burelli recalling that Venezuelan vessels are also implicated in violations of neighboring territorial waters.

Minister Burelli was referring to Colombian boats detained last week and pointed out that their release will take place once the legal procedures are completed and the corresponding fine paid.

On the subject of fines, the foreign minister disagreed with the amounts imposed by Venezuela. In his opinion, they are well below those applied by neighboring countries.

"Our fines are very low. That is why I have asked for them to be raised to the level of those imposed on our own fishermen when they are detained," said Burelli.

The foreign minister spoke on the problem of the planes stolen in Venezuela and taken to Colombia. Government institutions from that country have used the planes from the moment they were confiscated from those who took them there, mainly drug traffickers.

"It is inconceivable that this matter has not been resolved," said Burelli in reference to the unproductive negotiations with Colombian authorities to recover the planes.

Minister Burelli said that he could not show any positive results even though Venezuela has gone through every legal channel and has sent numerous notes to the Colombian Government to have the airplanes returned to their owners.

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